

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Freedom Air assets up for sale

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority of Guam has given notice that it intends to sell off the assets of defunct Freedom Air.

See FREEDOM on Page 4

The Guam airport authority sent out a notice yesterday from the Guam Superior Court stating that Freedom Air assets are now up for auction after it received lien of the assets back

'Pay raise was not in Torres' letter'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House of Representatives lawmaker pointed out that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' re-

call letter on a bill that would increase the salaries of elected officials did not indicate anything about increasing their wages; rather, it would create a new pay schedule for

civil service employees. Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) said that Torres' letter to the Legislature on Nov. 9 last year asked

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BOARD MEETING

The Marianas Visitors Authority discussed in their regular board meeting yesterday concerns over the long waiting time of tourists to pass through immigration before fully enjoying the CNMI.

Story on Page 2

ERWIN ENCINARES

Report: 5 ways for workers to earn status

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Granting permanent residency status to long-term guest workers in the CNMI would be a fitting way of saying "thank you" to these individ-

uals who helped shaped the Commonwealth's economy. This was one of the long-term proposals agreed to by both panels of the 902 talks that were transmitted to congressional leaders last week.

"The long-term guest work-

ers, through their continued presence and contributions to the CNMI, are intertwined with the economic development and growth of the Commonwealth," states the final report of the 902 consultations. "Allowing these individuals a

path to lawful permanent residence would recognize their important contributions to a place many of them consider home, in some cases for more than 20 years."

Congress, however, still

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Cavanagh: It is necessary

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands board chair Gloria Cavanagh thinks actions discussed in the 902 talks concerning the

labor workforce of the CNMI are necessary to solve the crisis crippling the growth of the CNMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reintroduced his House Resolution

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Whispering Palms School will be having its annual Wine and Tapas Auction.

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BUSINESS

President Trump yanks the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

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NATION

A barrage of tornadoes and thunderstorms i blamed for at least 20 deaths.

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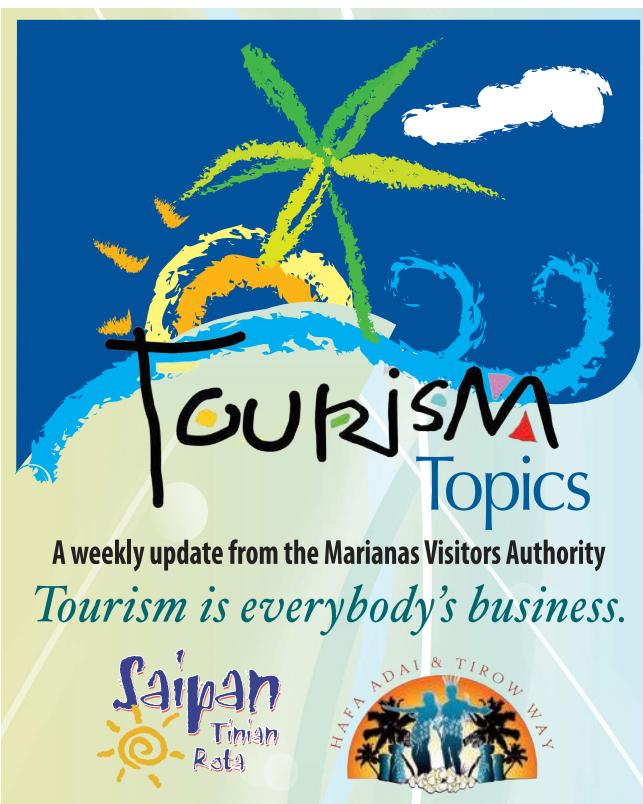


GOT A NEWS TIP?

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13th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

Feb. 18-19, 2017

The 13th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held over Presidents Day weekend on Feb. 18-19, 2017, highlighting the island's famously potent "donne sali" pepper.

The event will be held at Tachogna Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose. Available hotels on island include Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's and Street Motel. Air service is provided by Star Marianas. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well.

Festival times will be from 2-11 p.m. on Feb. 18 and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Feb. 19. The event is also co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and sponsored by MVA members. Activities will include the 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 18 at 6 a.m., cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the umang (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the donne sali eating competition, itself.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com.



www.mymarianas.com

Local

CPA intervenes in Yamamoto suit to collect \$20K

The Commonwealth Ports Authority intervened yesterday in Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and owner/operators of cargo ship M/V *Luta* to collect \$20,463 in alleged unpaid services.

CPA, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award it \$20,463 plus fees, costs, and custodial fees.

According to the complaint, from March through October 2016, CPA provided necessities to M/V *Luta* at each of its three ports: the Port of Saipan, the Port of Tinian, and Rota West Harbor.

Beyond some special services of minor expense, these necessities were for dockage and entry at these ports, Torres said.

The fees for these services totaled \$20,260.

Torres said that CPA provided substantial necessities for the ship at the order of the owner or authorized representative of M/V *Luta*.

Torres said that CPA regularly invoiced M/V *Luta*'s owners for payment of these necessities, but it has not received any payments.

He said CPA has demanded payment for these invoices, again sending those demands to Luta Mermaid LLC, but the owners/operators refused to pay.

Last week, Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc., through counsel Janet H King, asked the court to allow it to intervene in Yamamoto's lawsuit.

The company claims that M/V *Luta* owes a total of \$165,766.

King said from March 17, 2016, to Oct. 31, 2016, Rota Terminal provided necessities to M/V *Luta* such as stevedoring services, agency services, notice of arrival clearances, vessel clearances, cargo clearances, government clearances, cargo booking services, and administrative services.

Three groups have already intervened in Yamamoto's

lawsuit. They are a former captain of M/V *Luta* and six crew members, Long Consulting LLC, and Norton Lilly International. The captain and crew members are demanding payment of \$183,648 in unpaid wages, while Long Consulting is claiming \$300,000 in unpaid services. Norton Lilly is claiming \$131,801 in unpaid services.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Hocog and the owner/operators

of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship. The National Maritime Services is custodian of the vessel.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has ordered the vessel sold in the minimum bid amount of \$550,000. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

NI mayor wants islands to be breadbasket of CNMI

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan wants to transform his home islands—which he affectionately calls Gani—into the breadbasket of the Commonwealth.

One way of developing the islands is by reviving its agriculture industry, said Aldan as one of the guest speakers in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

In the past the Northern Islands produced sugar for the whole of the Marianas and was where the Micronesia-wide copra industry began.

"We plan to move into agricultural production and value-added processes such as, for example, converting sugar cane to sugar and using the byproducts for alternative energy-related synthesis, considering that the Northern Islands don't even have power generation," he said.

Aldan said his office is also partnering with the Northern

Marianas College- Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service and it has provided a historical overview of farming in the Northern Islands during the Spanish, German, Japanese, and U.S. eras.

"The plan lists fruits and vegetables tested to be good for production there. Sugarcane, sweet potato, watermelon, pineapple, and cotton production were staples during the Japanese era, while coconut for copra was during the German period," he said.

The copra industry was so successful that it became a regional development engine for the United Micronesia Development Association, the largest non-government development group in Micronesia. UMDA once owned Hotel Nikko Saipan, was a major stockholder in Continental Air Micronesia, and purchased and then sold the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

However, Aldan said, before he can realize the revival

of the Northern Islands' agriculture industry he would first need to resettle the islands.

"I am working closely with the Department of Public Lands, on the homestead projects in the Northern Islands," he said.

He also volunteered that DPL's survey of village and agricultural homesteads in the Northern Islands has been postponed twice and is now set for March 2017.

"I am still optimistic that the surveys would be completed this year. I just need to continue waking up folks. People in Gani Islands need this program implemented. Why? They need to feel a keen sense of ownership and what other way of doing it is to give them the land they occupied for centuries just as what was given to the folks from here [Saipan], Rota, and Tinian. We anticipate the distribution of homesteads in Gani Islands this year," he said. (*Mark Rabago*)

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



MVA: Tourists wait 3 to 4 hours or more

The Marianas Visitors Authority expressed concern yesterday over what it described as the long wait of tourists as they line up for immigration clearance.

According to MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, tourists wait in line for immigration clearance for three to four hours on peak days.

"This is unacceptable for us as a beach resort destination. It is ruining the tourist experience immediately upon arrival and projecting a very damaging image of the Marianas," said Concepcion, adding that tourists are often accompanied by infants, children, and the elderly in the middle of the night with limited to no seating at all.

"It is an absolute outrage that this is happening in the CNMI. [Tourists are] waiting in line longer than it takes to fly to Tokyo, which is only three hours [away]," he added.

Concepcion recognizes that this issue is due to Customs and Border Protection's lack of manpower. Congress has limited the number of CBP personnel in the CNMI to only 20 and the CNMI government has no control over this lack.

"From our meetings with CBP, we understand they are capped at 20 for the whole

CNMI, with four on long-term leave, and two about to leave permanently in a couple months, leaving them with 14 total staff to handle thousands of incoming passengers everyday on a 24-hour schedule," he said.

MVA board member Jerry Tan brought the issue up during Monday's MVA board meeting, to which members agreed that the wait is too long.

MVA board member Kwang Joong Kim said that he has also been receiving complaints about the long wait time.

"The tourists tell me they came here to spend money and feel unwelcome [due to the long lines]," said Kim.

MVA is currently drafting a letter for Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) regarding the CBP issue, since the personnel limit was imposed by the U.S. Congress.

According to Concepcion's statement, the cap was set by Congress due to budgetary concerns. He added that emergency exemptions can surely be made for the CNMI.

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but specifically through an act of Congress.

"The MVA is sounding the alarm right now that if the ridiculously long waits at CBP continue, it will have

damaging effects on the tourism industry long-term," said Concepcion.

He said other beach resorts in the Asia-Pacific region do not have long wait times,

which makes the CNMI seem "less competitive."

Still, despite the lack of manpower, Concepcion commends the efforts of the CBP for their continued services.

"We do want to extend our thanks to all CBP officers for working their hardest under

these circumstances, with limited staff, long working hours, and odd shifts," he said.

"We know their issues are at the mercy of policy makers in Washington," he added. "Something must be done before it is too late." **(Erwin Encinare)**

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island February 6-8, 2017.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or

Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.



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Ban on use of plastic bags sought

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rep. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has re-introduced his legislation that would ban the use of plastic checkout bags in the CNMI.

He first introduced in the 19th Legislature House Bill 19-27, where the House Natural Resources Committee, then chaired by Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian), recommended its passage but in the form of House Substitute 1.

Sablan did not make any significant changes on his re-introduced bill, this time as House Bill 20-1, since it is known that plastic bags are non-compostable and pollutes the environment and threatens animal life on land and sea.

His proposed legislation wants to promote the use of reusable bags, recycled paper, biodegradable or compostable plastic designed for reuse, and reusable bags made of washable materials. Violation carries a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 if

HB 20-11 becomes a law.

"In addition to the harm that these plastic bags present, the manufacturing of these bags requires the needless consumption of the Earth's ever-depleting non-renewable resources," wrote Sablan on the bill.

"And while the economic and social costs associated with plastic bags are high, attempts to mitigate the harms through recycling have proven influential because the present price of recycling is prohibitively higher."

Being stewards of the

CNMI's surroundings and Earth's temporary residents gives people the duty of preserving its resources and act as the environment's guardians for future generations, Sablan said.

An estimated one trillion plastic bags are used worldwide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that Americans use more than 380 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps each year, while the *Wall Street Journal* said the U.S. consumes 100 billion single-used plastic shopping bags annually that costs retailers \$4 billion.

Australia, on the other hand, uses an estimated close to 8 billion plastic bags a year or 326 per person, where more than 49 million end up as litter annually, while Chinese-Taipei utilizes a yearly number of 20 billion or 900 bags per person.

Studies show that plastic bags that end up in the ocean harm animals like sea turtles, whales, and other marine creatures as they often mistake it for food. Plastic bags also photodegrade or break down to smaller toxic pieces instead of being biodegradable, which mean capable of decomposing.

New United planes set to take flight

CHICAGO—Next month, a brand-new United Airlines plane will push back from the gate with a new name: "New Spirit of United."

This special aircraft is also the company's first Boeing 777-300ER featuring the United Polaris all-aisle access, lie-flat seat. It represents a commitment to the future and the commencement of an exciting new chapter for the

company as it builds the best airline in the world.

"This aircraft symbolizes the new spirit, the energy and enthusiasm that I have seen in our employees who take great pride in the work they are doing to take care of our customers and one another," said Oscar Munoz, chief executive officer of United Airlines. "The new 777-300ER fleet will play a crucial role in con-

nnecting our customers to far-away destinations and to the moments that matter most."

The "New Spirit of United" is exemplified by the significant progress the company made in operational reliability last year, achieving its best full-year on-time performance in company history, the elevated customer experience and the completion of new agreements with

every domestic unionized work group in 2016.

As United Airlines continues to build on this momentum, this new aircraft serves as a symbol of the hard work, professionalism and dedication of the entire United team to our customers.

The aircraft will start regularly scheduled service in February 2017. This is the first of 14 777-300ER aircraft United expects to place into service in 2017. (*United*)

CAVANAGH

From Page 1

339 to Congress in the first week of January to extend the CW 1 program beyond 2019, raise the CW1 limit to 18,000 for one year, consider the use of immigration policies to address CNMI and Guam labor shortages, and extend eligibility of the federal workforce development programs to the CNMI.

"Because the CNMI economy was still down, they were able to reduce the slots until we were below 13,000 [foreign workers]. What happened was the CNMI econo-

my was starting to go up, so when the CWs were used to bring the construction workers in, the CNMI was dead in the water," Cavanagh told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Two weeks after the fiscal year's opening of CW slots, it was already capped out. It is an emergency, it is something that we need to relieve soon," she added.

Sablan introduced HR 339 to increase the cap by 2,002 for a year, bumping the cap to 15,000 foreign worker slots.

Cavanagh recognizes the labor shortage and the impending 2019 cutoff of the CW1 program as an emergency for the CNMI.

"If that [extending the CW1 program past 2019] does not happen, we are looking at thousands of people leaving the island at the end of February to early March. For HANMI, it is really scary because each and every one of [foreign worker] is part of a whole department of the hotel. Like for one hotel, 23 of their chefs are going to be leaving in March, so it is an emergency," she said.

Cavanagh hopes the 902 report's recommendations to Congress would go smoothly.

"If they [Congress] do agree to the stipulations as far as raising the cap by 2,002 and also to address a more permanent status for our long-term

workers, the [labor] problem would be solved," she said.

Cavanagh also supports giving long-time CW workers here a better status to open slots for other CW workers.

"Could you imagine if [Congress] actually gave us a more permanent status for our long-term workers? That is probably about 4,000 people that can actually stay here and not need a CW-1. Fifteen thousand plus that is 19,000," she added.

"I think this would solve everything, unless of course, we experience even more growth, which is a good problem but is also an urgent crisis...again," she added.

STATUS

From Page 1

needs to act on the proposals by amending the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 or Public Law 110-229, the legislation that extended federal immigration laws to the Commonwealth.

P.L. 110-229 resulted in the creation of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant visa program, transferring the CNMI's immigration policies to the federal government.

Giving long-term guest workers the chance to call the CNMI their permanent home would be a path to lawful residency that, in turn, would lead to U.S. citizenship.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, after reviewing the CNRA or P.L. 110-229 and consulting the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security, made recommendations to both panels that it would be appropriate for Congress in "permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth" to obtain permanent status.

The special representatives to the 902 talks—former assistant secretary for insular affairs Esther Kia'aina and CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres—have fully supported possible congressional action to make long-term guest workers, including their families, eligible for lawful permanent resident status with a path to citizenship.

This could be done as part of comprehensive immigration reform, given the unique nature of the CNMI and its "immigration transition." It could also be part of a separate legislation specifically on the

CNMI's immigration issues.

Among the possible steps that Congress could take is conferring immediate U.S. citizenship, granting of permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship with the five-year minimum residence spent anywhere in the U.S. or its territories, permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship with the five-year minimum residence spent in the CNMI, nonimmigrant status like that of citizens of the Freely Associated States—Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau—and the workers could live and work in the U.S. and its territories, or a nonimmigrant status like that granted to citizens of Freely Associated States and must live and work in the CNMI.

The report said DHS agrees

that Congress should "seriously consider options for a more permanent status for workers and their families with significant equities in the CNMI."

Providing permanent immigration status for long-term guest workers could be the most divisive among the recommendations made by both panels in the 902 report. A lot of foreign workers, many of whom have spent more than half of their lives in the CNMI, have been longing for an improved status even if it is CNMI-only permanent residency.

Local officials have recommended an improved status for guest workers that have been here for more than 10 years. If granted this would free them from the CW1 program, thus giving their slots to incoming personnel that would be under the transitional visa workforce.

Australia, on the other hand, uses an estimated close to 8 billion plastic bags a year or 326 per person, where more than 49 million end up as litter annually, while Chinese-Taipei utilizes a yearly number of 20 billion or 900 bags per person.

Studies show that plastic bags that end up in the ocean harm animals like sea turtles, whales, and other marine creatures as they often mistake it for food. Plastic bags also photodegrade or break down to smaller toxic pieces instead of being biodegradable, which mean capable of decomposing.

FREEDOM

From Page 1

in 2015. The auction would be held on Feb. 2, 2017, in Tiyan, Guam.

Freedom Air is a Guam airline that used to offer flights to and from the CNMI.

The auction notice specified that all sales are "as-is" and "where is" without warranty, with respect to merchantability, fitness for any purpose, condition, or any other warranty, and shall be subject to any existing liens.

The Commonwealth Development Authority on Saipan estimates the assets of Free-

dom Air to sell for about \$1.3 million.

In April 2015, the CDA board voted to foreclose on liens on any and all properties and aircraft of Freedom Air. It said that Freedom Air owes it \$1.3 million.

Freedom Air has been serving the CNMI for 37 years before filing for bankruptcy back in 2013.

Saipan Tribune archives state that Freedom Air's Cessna 207, Sherpa Cargo, and Piper airplanes are among the properties at the Guam airport.

For more information on the public inspection and auction, contact the property management office at (671) 646-0325/6.

PAY

From Page 1

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and then Senate President Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) to recall House Bill 19-3, HS1, due to some concerns.

That bill would have enacted a new base salary schedule for classified civil service government employees and increase the salary ceiling for government employees.

After the recall, when the bill went back on the House calendar, HB 19-3 now contained a section providing an increase for elected officials. It passed the House on Nov. 29, 2016, on a 15-5 vote; the Senate acted on it last Dec. 6. It was transmitted to the Governor's Office a week after on Dec. 12 where it awaited Torres' signature.

It is not clear if it has already become law even without Torres' signature since Article II Section VII (b) of the CNMI Constitution states that "the governor shall have 20 days in which to consider appropriation bills and 40 days in which to consider other bills. If the governor fails either to sign or veto a bill within the applicable period it shall become a law."

"What concerns me is, according to the governor's letter, it did not specify any salary adjustments for elected officials when he asked

for HB 19-3 to be recalled. When it was put back on the bill calendar it had already included the pay raise. It was not one of the concerns raised by the governor's message," said Attao.

Under House Bill 19-3, HS1, the salaries of all elected officials—mayors, legislators, lieutenant governor, and governor—would increase roughly by 80 percent.

Attao conceded that elected officials' salaries badly need an upgrade. The last time government officials' salaries increased was in the 7th Legislature under Public Law 7-31. "And I know that legislation that created the last salary act since the author is my father [then-floor leader Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan)]."

Unlike in Guam, though, the increase for lawmakers' salaries here would be retroactive. "They paid themselves for the last two years and technically they got four years for those who won re-election."

Attao also said the pay raise is an unfunded liability, with an estimated \$800,000 needed to fund the increase for the remaining months of the 2017 fiscal year. "Where are they going to get the money? The [FY 2017] budget gave the governor 100 percent reprogramming authority, but it only falls on general revenues."

Attao was one of five lawmakers who voted against the pay raise for elected officials.

Hotel owners' racketeering suit vs bank is dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The racketeering lawsuit filed by the owners of Victoria Hotel against a bank in Guam that they accused of operating in the CNMI without a license has been dismissed.

Citing failure to state a claim, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the seventh cause of action for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act filed by Jesus T. Lizama, his wife Victoria LG. Lizama, and J&JEV Enterprises Inc. against ANZ Guam Inc., which is formerly known as Citizens Security Bank (Guam) Inc.

Dismissed with prejudice means the Lizamas can no longer re-file the case.

Because the RICO claim was the sole basis for the court's original jurisdiction over the lawsuit, the court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining claims, said Manglona in a 22-page order granting ANZ Guam's motion to dismiss.

The Lizama couple and J&JEV Enterprises Inc. filed the lawsuit last March against ANZ Guam Inc., and five

unnamed co-defendants for violations of RICO, Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act, and Commonwealth Debt Collection Act-wrongful disclosure.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, also sued ANZ Guam for negligent misrepresentation, intentional misrepresentation, breach of contract, constructive fraud, tortious interference with contractual relations, interference with prospective contractual relations, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The plaintiffs were suing for damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

The allegations stem from foreclosure proceedings brought by ANZ Guam against the Lizamas and J&JEV Enterprises in the CNMI Superior Court.

In an order on Monday granting ANZ Guam's motion to dismiss, Manglona said the plaintiffs' entire RICO claim is premised upon the assertion

that ANZ needed a full-service banking license in the CNMI when it executed the mortgage agreement in Guam and instituted foreclosure proceedings in the CNMI.

"ANZ did not need a full-service CNMI banking license when it executed the mortgage agreement in Guam and, in fact, had one when it instituted foreclosure proceedings over the CNMI real properties," the judge pointed out.

Moreover, Manglona said, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's payment of 70 percent of the loan to ANZ Guam did not free the plaintiffs from paying the underlying debt or mortgage.

According to court records, on Jan. 9, 1997, plaintiffs and ANZ entered into a loan agreement in Guam, whereby ANZ loaned the plaintiffs \$1.8 million, with interest of 1.75 percent, to build the Victoria Hotel in Garapan, Saipan.

Once the construction was complete, the loan was converted

to a Business Loan Agreement in 1999, together with a promissory note in the increased amount of \$1.99 million.

When plaintiffs defaulted on the loan, ANZ tried to foreclose on the plaintiffs in the Superior Court in June 2000. In 2001, the Superior Court directed the plaintiffs to pay ANZ \$2.2 million in principal and interest.

When the plaintiffs failed to comply, ANZ moved for an order directing foreclosure sale on Oct. 29, 2012.

The Superior Court then issued an order directing foreclosure sale of the mortgaged property in the outstanding unpaid amount of \$2.1 million in principal, interest, and attorney's fees.

In 2014, plaintiffs appealed

to the CNMI Supreme Court, which then dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

ANZ gave notice of the foreclosure sale of the mortgaged property to be held on March 21, 2016.

Plaintiffs then filed the racketeering lawsuit in federal court, placing the foreclosure sale on hold until further notice.

ANZ, through counsel Joyce Tang and Robert T. Torres, moved to dismiss the racketeering lawsuit on the grounds that it failed to plead fraud with sufficient particularity.

In granting the motion to dismiss, Manglona pointed out that plaintiffs assert a RICO claim but fail to identify the statutory section they are referring to.

Manglona said plaintiffs

instead make broad assertions that ANZ acted in concert with five Does and engaged in interstate commerce with respect to "concealing and misrepresenting to plaintiffs and to the CNMI courts" ANZ's questionable legal status in the CNMI and USDA's payment of the guaranteed amount of the loan, and "showing a pattern of racketeering."

Manglona said plaintiffs have failed to allege sufficient facts to support the allegations of any racketeering activity.

Manglona said while plaintiffs assert that ANZ engaged in "excessive and continuous coercion to collect debts," it provides nothing further to put ANZ on notice as to what specific wrongful conduct ANZ engaged in.

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SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, ± 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and ± 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer - via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator



CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER BUFFET

@ **ISLA**
CAFE

January 27, 2017
6pm to 9:30 pm

\$30 Adult / \$15 Child (4 to 11)
20% Local discount with valid local ID

Special Roasted Beef Ribeye
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Oysters on the Half Shell
and much more!!!

Free flowing Wine, Sparkling Wine & Miller Lite Beer

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Kanoa Resort
Saipan

For reservations please call
234-6601 xt. 742 / 743



Masseuse files discrimination suit vs ex-employer

A massage therapist sued her former employer and supervisors yesterday in federal court for not renewing her contract after she allegedly filed a discrimination complaint against them for exposing her to cigarette smoke when she was pregnant.

Arlene F. Ladringan is suing Mirage Corp., its president Suichi Kondo, manager Lili Kondo, supervisor Ishei Lei, and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for unlawful employment practices, retaliation, employment practice in violation of public policy, and

intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Ladringan, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to be reinstated to the same position and to hold the defendants liable to pay her back pay, damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday to get comments from the defendants, but a Mirage Massage staff said Suichi Kondo and Lili Kondo are currently in Japan. Lei said she is not aware of the lawsuit

and that she would inform her boss about it.

Hasselback stated in the complaint that plaintiff started working for Mirage in September 2011 as a massage therapist, providing massages to Mirage's customers at several of its business locations on Saipan.

Hasselback said that Mirage allowed its customers to smoke inside one or more of its branches.

The lawyer said there were no measures taken to designate an enclosed area as a "smoking area," nor were there any steps taken to iso-

late customers and/or employees from the smoke.

Hasselback said that, in March 2013, Ladringan discovered that she was pregnant and informed her employer. Concerned for the health of her unborn child, Ladringan asked Lili Kondo and Lei that she be re-assigned to a location where she would not be exposed to cigarette smoke in an enclosed space when she worked.

Hasselback said this was not done.

On May 16, 2013, Ladringan's physician provided her with a medical slip instruct-

ing her employer about the dangers of cigarette smoke for employees, especially those who are pregnant.

Hasselback said the slip contained a restrictive instruction that plaintiff should avoid smoke from tobacco for the duration of her pregnancy because the exposure increases the risk of premature labor and decreased birth weight.

Hasselback said Ladringan presented the medical slip to Lili Kondo and Lei, but she was not reassigned and instead was instructed to keep working in locations where

customers regularly were permitted to smoke.

The lawyer said Lili Kondo and Lei demanded that Ladringan sign a "waiver letter" that would absolve the employer of any and all responsibility for any harm that might come to her or her unborn child as a result of her exposure to cigarette smoke.

Hasselback said Ladringan, however, was never provided any such letter by her employer.

On June 11, 2013, Ladringan filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, complaining that she was wrongfully discriminated against because of her pregnancy.

Hasselback said plaintiff was then transferred from a full-time status to a part-time status by reducing her work hours.

The lawyer said after learning about the EEOC complaint, Lili Kondo brought Ladringan to a meeting and told her to drop the case in exchange for restoring her work hours.

Hasselback said Ladringan was told that if she would not drop the complaint, the employer would revoke her work permit.

Hasselback said that on Oct. 14, 2014, the employer informed Ladringan through a letter that it would not be renewing her employment contract, nor would it renew her immigration status, ostensibly due to "downsizing" at the company.

Hasselback said this explanation was a lie intended to legitimize defendants' discriminatory acts against Ladringan. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://www.opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

Opening Date: 1/16/17 Closing Date: 1/31/17

POSITION: Administrative Assistant
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: OPA-17-001

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai.

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, January 30, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

1) April 9, 2015
2) July 17, 2015
3) July 23, 2015
4) December 30, 2016

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Review of Applications

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Antonio L. Borja
Chairman¹

¹We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

³Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

⁴Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

⁵Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN

Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or three (3) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

1) April 9, 2015
2) July 17, 2015
3) July 23, 2015
4) December 30, 2016

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-17-001 Position: Fiscal Analyst
PL-UNGRADED: \$50,000.00 Annual
Opening Date: January 18, 2017
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee
Closing Date: February 1, 2017
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Conducts budget analysis, monitors agency and institution budgets, and prepares related reports;
- Provides information and assistance on the status of legislative proposals and measures, budgetary and fiscal practices, and prepares summaries and explanations of budget-related reports and proposed legislation;
- Provides assistance in analyzing departmental budget requests, including necessary documentation, investigation, and related budget impact studies;
- Provides technical assistance to the Legislature on cost-benefit analyses or fiscal reports on proposed legislation current programs;
- Conducts fiscal and general research for Legislative Committees and for individual legislators, prepares reports and analysis on findings, and presents alternative solutions for consideration;
- Drafts bills, resolutions, reports, and amendments;
- Makes oral presentations and responds to questions regarding state budget and fiscal matters;
- When necessary, attends budget hearings, committee meetings, and legislative sessions; and
- Performs other duties as directed.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Must possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in Public Administration, Business Administration, Accounting, Economics or related field with two years experience; or possess eight years of relevant work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process and the CNMI government budgeting process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(E) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-17-002 Position: Delegation Assistant
PL-UNGRADED: \$ 18,330.00 Annually
Opening Date: January 18, 2017
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee
Closing Date: February 1, 2017
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

Perform clerical, administrative and other office related functions, including answering telephone, receiving communications and disseminating same to appropriate recipients; preparing and sending fax transmittals; maintaining filing system; copying and distributing documents to members and legislative bureau staff; setting up appointments and schedules; timekeeping; records and transcribes sessions; initiating correspondence and perform other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess two years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;
- Must have organizational skills and computer experience;
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(E) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Gemkell Saipan Corp.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, Full Time (9)

Responsible for managing the customer's experience by identifying customer's needs and recommending or promoting the appropriate merchandise. Sales Associates also process all modes of payment using the POS System and help maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the boutique by maintaining the cleanliness of the store (showcases and displays).

Requires: High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales and must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than February 13, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks will be required prior to employment.

OAG files charges vs rookie cop who beat up wife

The Office of the Attorney General has filed formal charges against a rookie police officer who was arrested last week for allegedly beating up his wife, also a police officer, inside their car along Beach Road in Susupe.

Acting chief prosecutor Heather Barcenas filed on Monday an information charging the 38-year-old Ramon Saures Kaipat with assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Bordallo statement on Wilson's nomination

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) released the following statement yesterday on the nomination of Heather Wilson's as secretary of the Air Force.

"I welcome the news that President Trump has nominated my former colleague, Heather Wilson, to be the next secretary of the Air Force. As a veteran of the Air Force and Air Force Academy she has a keen understanding of the importance of airpower in our current national security en-

vironment. I appreciated the opportunity to serve with her on the House Armed Services Committee and I look forward to better understanding her agenda, if she is confirmed as secretary of the Air Force. As co-chair of the House Air Force Caucus I look forward to working with her to ensure that the importance of airpower is evident in the department's budgets and strategic documents. I think Heather is the right person to lead that effort under President Trump's administration." (PR)

The court will continue working on appointing a lawyer for the defendant.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho moved the preliminary hearing to Jan. 31, 2017.

Barcenas stated in the information that Kaipat hit his wife several times on the head and body using his hands and knees last Jan. 13.

Police officers led by detective Simon T. Manacop report-

edly responded to the parking lot across the Truongs Restaurant at 11:18pm after receiving a call about a disturbing the peace incident.

Manacop saw Kaipat on top of his wife on the passenger side seat of a Nissan Altima car. Kaipat was reportedly holding down his wife's head on the seat. The wife was stepping on the car's horn, causing

it to honk several times.

The wife told police that she and Kaipat just came from a party for patrol officers at a hotel and while she was talking with her sister on the cell-phone, he grabbed the phone and her hair and punched her head and face. He also allegedly wrapped his arm around her neck in a headlock. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Philippine Army. Musical director will be businessman James A Olayvar.

Also flying in from Manila is The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines Grand Master Voltaire Gazmin, who was the 35th secretary of the Philippines' Department of National Defense. He will serve as the guest speaker.

Freemasonry is the world's first and largest fraternal organization. (*Mark Rabago*)

Emon Lodge No. 179 to hold installation on Feb. 4

Emon Lodge No. 179 will hold its 26th installation of officers for Masonic year 2017-2018 on Feb. 4, 2017, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Wilfredo "Boy" G. Ching will be replacing Pepe R. Crisostomo as Worshipful Master of Emon Lodge No. 179's Free and Accepted Masons.

Others elected for senior posts are Lito Espino, senior

warden; Arnel Metran, junior warden; Romeo Mala-sarte, secretary; Casiano Bostre, treasurer; and Daniel Banez, auditor.

Appointed officers that will also be sworn in: Carlon Eslaban, chaplain; Isagani Benzoa, marshal; Wendell Posadas, senior deacon; Joel Subang, junior deacon; Pepe Cristomo, lecturer; Pete Reyes, orator; Saturnino Alciso Jr., almoner;

Victor Brana, organist; Joselito Arce, tyler; Val Bolivar, senior steward; and Leo Canedo, junior steward.

Ching said the installing team will be led by installing officer Juanito B. Vaño, a retired two-star general; master of ceremonies Dennis J. Peña, a retired police general; and assistant master of ceremonies Romeo G. Gan, a retired major general of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-17-IFB-004

FEDDOS LANE ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, PROJECT

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Feddos Lane Road and Drainage Improvement, Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 18, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. **NMIAAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 7, 2017** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 22, 2017** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828 or 9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 27, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 27, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 27, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 8, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 13, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on February 27, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations \$70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW/SWMD 17-IFB-001

Removal, Packaging, Labeling, Containment, and Shipping of Discarded Electronic Waste (E-WASTE) Collected at Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), is soliciting sealed bids for removal, packaging, labeling, containment, and shipping of discarded e-waste consisting of televisions (plasma, cathode-ray tube and flat screen), PC towers, monitors, keyboards and peripherals, copy and printing machines, VCR and CD player boom boxes, radios, stereo equipment, fax machines, desktop calculators, projectors, telephones, and other related electronic appliances and equipment from the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The shipping of e-waste is destined for either reuse, resale, salvage, recycling, or disposal to an end-processor firm in the U.S. Mainland or in a foreign government.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **January 11, 2017** at the Solid Waste Management Division Office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. **NMIAAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a mandatory Pre-bid Conference for this project on **January 27, 2017**, 9:30 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Office Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the accumulation of e-waste at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on **February 01, 2017** to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the bids relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:00 p.m. to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the collection of e-waste and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Solid Waste Management Division Office by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 322-2760 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW/SWMD17-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 15, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 15, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 15, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **February 27, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10**

Lions Club looks to expand membership in 2017

Region 2 Lions Clubs plans to increase its membership in 2017, even as the umbrella organization of all three Lions Club groups in the CNMI hopes to be more visible in the community.

Ladyvir Canape, Region 2 Lions Clubs chair, said the three Lions Clubs in the Northern Marianas—Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and Alliance Lions Club—have 120 members.

"We would really like to continue the annual projects of Lions Club and increase membership by recruiting more and being visible to the community by having more projects that will benefit the community," said Canape.

She said Region 2 Lions Clubs want to build on its many activities in 2016.

Some of the activities Region 2 Lions Clubs were able to accomplish last year were adoptions of school bus stops on Navy Hill, in Gualo Rai, Chalan Lau Lau, As Perdido, and Koblerville.

Canape said they were able to donate two wheelchairs to the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis center in 2016, conduct toy drive/donations to CHC Pediatric Unit & CDAC Early Intervention Program, and help with the annual Health Fair.

Region 2 Lions Clubs were also able organize Feed the Hunger campaign in 2016, which was a food drive for Tinian Dynasty Hotel employees and Susupe fire victims.

The organization was also able to charter a new club in 2016; the Saipan Alliance Lions Club became its third and newest club.

She said Region 2 Lions Clubs is helping in every which way it can "to be of service to community."

Joe Ayuyu to keynote Chamber's installation dinner

The annual installation dinner is the signature event of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Business managers and owners, government officials, and young professionals gather for a fabulous dinner. The Chamber inducts the new directors to the board and recognizes the outgoing directors.

The highlight of this celebration is announcing the 2016 Business Person of the Year. Each nominee must be a member of the Chamber and must reside on Saipan. Qualifying criteria includes active participation in the Chamber's meetings, programs and activities; community involvement and contributions; and support for our local workforce. The nominees for this year are:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Region 2 Lions Clubs take part in the 2016 Annual Health Fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some of the activities Lions Clubs did last year was the distribution of used eyeglasses for Week of Service in Sight.

Canape encouraged anyone who has an inclination to help the community to join the Lions Club.

"The only qualification to

become a Lion member is if you have a heart to serve. Lions Clubs International will continue to serve the community in the areas of environment,

youth, hunger, and vision," she said.

Lions Clubs International is an international secular, non-political service organization



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Region 2 Lions Clubs were also able organize Feed the Hunger campaign in 2016, which was a food drive for Tinian Dynasty Hotel employees.

founded by Melvin Jones in 1917. As of April 2015, it had over 46,000 local clubs and more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries

around the world making it the world's largest service club organization. For those who wants to be a Lion member or for any questions about the club, call Canape at 989-2545 or Zone 2 chair Lion Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. (Mark Rabago)

Navy training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, GUAM—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 25 to Feb. 9 from 10am to 11pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

(2011), Robert "Bob" Jones of Triple J Corp. (2010), Vicente "Ben" Babauta of DFS Saipan (2009), Kathryn H. Barry of KB Communications (2008), K.J. Kim of Asiana Airlines (2007), Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Bakery/MITA Travel (2006), David M. Sablan Sr. of Century Insurance (2005), Mark Erwin of Continental Airlines (2004), Jerry Tan of TanHoldings (2003), Alex A. Sablan of Saipan Shipping Co. (2002), Jay B. Jones of Triple J Motors (2001), Wendi S. Herring of Pacific Islands Club (2000), Marcie Tomokane of Bank of Guam (2013), Marcia E. Ayuyu of RJ Corp. (2012) and Anthony Pellegrino of Saipan Sea Ventures (2012), James Arenovski of Pacific Financial Corp. (1997), and Efrain F. Cam-

cho of EFC Engineers and Architects (1996).

The winner will be kept secret until the official announcement on Jan. 28 at the Chamber's annual installation dinner. The 2017 board will be sworn in by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph James Norita Camacho.

The night's keynote speaker is Joe Ayuyu of RJ Corp., who was recently named Executive of the Year by *Guam Business Magazine*.

The installation dinner will be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, from 6pm to 9pm.

The silent auction fundraiser will feature a large variety of prizes donated by member businesses. Proceeds of the auction will support the

programs and activities of the Chamber such as its annual scholarships, educational workshops, employment training seminars, military vessel welcomes, and Saipan Young Professionals activities.

Seating is limited. Ticket prices are available by advance purchase only and are \$65 per person.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization consisting of private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Please call us at 234-7150 or visit us on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe for more information. Website: www.saipanchamber.com. Facebook: Saipan Chamber of Commerce. (SCC)

EEMC recommends \$10M CUC projects for FY2017, '18

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gilbane Federal, the court-appointed company that is overseeing several Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects, recommends some future capital improvements projects for CUC worth over \$10 million.

Daryl Greenway, project lead principal for Gilbane Federal/Engineering and Environmental Management Company, recommended to the U.S. District Court for the NMI that capital improvement projects for fiscal year 2017 include Tank 103 repairs and some secondary work; Power Plant 1 and 2 on Saipan, and Rota facility waste management improvements; and EEMC construction management.

Suspected ‘ice’ supplier falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested on Thursday night one of suspected main suppliers of methamphetamine or “ice” in the villages of Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, and Koblerville.

Jun Xia, 37, also known as Jun Tragic, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday for a bail hearing on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Cash bail was set at \$100,000; preliminary hearing was held today, Tuesday.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Xia. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. appeared for the government.

Xia, a Chinese male, was first arrested last Jan. 10, 2017, in Susupe for trafficking and illegal possession of “ice.” He was released on his own recognizance after offering to serve as a confidential informant but was then re-arrested last Thursday in Koblerville for not cooperating with the police’s ongoing investigations.

A cooperating defendant told police that he/she has known Tragic (Xia) in the past three years as an “ice” distributor who uses a moped for his deliveries to customers.

Xia, who lives near Susupe Lake, would also allegedly receive stolen items such as flat screen TVs, jewelry, cellular phones, and portable electronic devices from drug customers in exchange for “ice.”

During two “buy-walk operation” last Dec. 8 and Dec. 28, the cooperating defendant was able to buy “ice” from Xia.

In EEMC’s annual report for 2016, Greenway also disclosed that for fiscal year 2018, their recommendation is for Tanks 102 and 103 secondary containment repairs; Power Plants 1 and 2 on Saipan and Rota facility drainage improvements; Power Plants

1 and 2 on Saipan and Rota facility waste management improvements; smart pigging of CUC oil pipeline; and EEMC construction management.

Greenway said the total funding for the fiscal year 2017 projects is \$5 million grants plus \$54,000 court

registry funds, while the total funding for 2018 projects is another \$5 million grants plus \$56,000 court registry funds.

In 2016, four projects were active—EEMC construction management and administration, CUC pipeline construction, Tank 103 clean

and inspection, and Tank 103 long-lead repair items.

Greenway said the EEMC construction management and administration is an ongoing activity, while the pipeline construction was completed in 2016. He said Tank 103 cleanup and inspection were

completed in 2016, but repairs have been deferred to 2017.

He said Tank 103 long-lead repair was initiated in December 2016.

Greenway said as of January 2017, total payments to EEMC for 2016 work is \$6,337,649.

Small craft and high surf advisories in effect

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyam, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a large northwest swell is being created by northwest winds behind a cold front moving out of Japan. Persistent strong northeast winds are also cre-

ating a large northeast swell. These swells will maintain hazardous surf for the Marianas the next few days.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday. Surf is currently hazardous at 8 to 10 feet on north and west facing reefs. The surf is expected to peak today, Wednesday, at 10 to 12 feet. Surf will begin to

subside Thursday and could fall below hazardous levels Thursday night.

Increasing northeast swell and wind waves will result in hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet along east facing reefs. Surf will remain at these levels before beginning to subside tonight.

Minor beach erosion and strong rip currents are possible

at beaches along coastlines facing north and west. Ritidian and Tarague beaches in Guam are likely very susceptible. Additionally, Portuguese man-of-war was recently reported at Asan Beach in Guam.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday. Fresh to strong winds of 20 to 25 knots with

near gale gusts are expected through Thursday. Combined seas of 9 to 12 feet will likely remain hazardous through Thursday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches, especially those facing north, east, and west, as rip currents will be life threatening. (EOC)

Pilot projects to boost Pacific coconut industry

SUVA, Fiji—The Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the European Union will support the coconut industry in Samoa and Vanuatu as part of a new regional initiative to improve small producer’s business competitiveness.

The €3.5 million Coconut Industry Development Project aims to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Samoa and Vanuatu, and to share lessons learned to support the development of the regional coconut industries.

SPC Project team leader

Karen Mapusua explained that the call for expressions of interest is now open for all involved in the coconut industry including the private sector, farmers’ organizations, and NGOs working with farmers. This allows potential applicants ample time to develop the required business plans and other documentation and take advantage of this unique opportunity to access technical assistance, training and equipment to support innovation in the coconut sector.

In Vanuatu, the coconut

sector supports 80 percent of Vanuatu’s rural population livelihoods. Until recently copra has been the country’s main foreign exchange earner.

In Samoa, over 80 percent of the population use up to 45 coconuts for cooking each week. Coconut also accounts for almost 5 percent of export earnings.

Coconut has a central role in the diets of Pacific people and is vital in contributing to food security, health promotion and sustainable livelihoods. New interest in coconuts and prod-

ucts such as virgin coconut oil, coconut water, coconut sap products and timber, amongst others, are also presenting opportunities for new growth in the coconut industry.

Mapusua said that there will be a very competitive selection process for the projects with a strong due diligence component.

“The national level mechanism that verifies expressions of interest will ensure that it must align with the national development priorities for the sector. A technical advisory

group consisting of an independent panel of experts, will assess all submissions based on the eligibility and selection criteria and draw up a shortlist of prospective pilot projects,” she said.

Application forms and detailed information on the application process are available on the SPC website.

SPC is the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region, proudly supporting development since 1947. It is an international development organization owned and governed by its 26 country and territory members. (SPC)



The winning Team Guam members included Eddie Olkeriil, Tom Daga, Rick San Nicolas, and Joe Rapanut. They received individual trophies, a team trophy, and tablets as Ramp Rodeo champions.

UNITED AIRLINES

United Guam employees win Ramp Rodeo

» Annual competition promotes airline safety

GUAM—United Airlines announced yesterday that Team Guam was the overall winner of the annual United Ramp Rodeo in 2016.

United teams from around the world competed at the Ramp Rodeo, held Nov. 9-10, 2016, in Houston, Texas. Ramp service employees competed in various areas

of airport operations. They tested skills they use on the job, such as driving, loading and unloading aircraft, marshaling signals, and aircraft pushbacks.

The winning Team Guam members included Eddie Olkeriil, lead ramp service employee; Tom Daga, ramp service employee; Rick San

Nicolas, ramp service employee; and Joe Rapanut, ramp service employee. They received individual trophies, a team trophy, and tablets as Ramp Rodeo champions.

“As Guam’s hometown airline, United is proud of the Guam employees who earned the top prize from United’s first Ramp Rodeo,” said Sam

Shinohara, managing director of Operations Asia/Pacific. “The Guam employees set the bar high as the first champions of this annual competition that promotes airline safety. The competition not only fosters team building but also sharing of best practices for safe airport operations.”

United modeled the Ramp

Rodeo after ones conducted by the U.S. Air Force. The United Ramp Rodeo serves as an opportunity for employees to test their knowledge and skills as well as to learn from each other. When winners return to their stations, they are expected to be role models for their peers by executing various tasks safely. (PR)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Accept President Trump and hold him accountable for promised change

Although it won't be easy for some, it's time for Americans to get used to the sound of President Trump.

We must now accept his presidency and press him to follow through on his promises to grow the economy, strengthen America and revitalize its middle class.

This will require faith and engagement. This editorial board, which endorsed Hillary Clinton for president, and other citizens will be challenged to look beyond Trump's rhetoric _ and troubling tweets _ to assess actual policy changes by his administration.

Changes that should be encouraged include the increased antitrust enforcement Trump called for during his campaign. He notably opposed AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner because it would concentrate too much power in a single company.

This scrutiny of mergers is appropriate for a populist president: they reduce choices for the public and usually lead to higher prices and fewer jobs.

While Trump's foreign policy pronouncements have been distressing, especially the isolationism touted during his inauguration speech, America may benefit from a firmer stance toward China's mercantilism.

For trade-dependent states, it's disappointing that Trump appears hellbent on trade wars and opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But our dealmaker in chief should pursue new and better trade agreements that are needed to sustain and grow industry and jobs across the country.

More infrastructure investment is a worthy goal, as long as the public remains the primary beneficiary of such spending and owner of its critical assets.

Addressing violence in cities like Chicago is another good goal of Trump's _ if it's done with modern, enlightened policing, and not an excuse for oppressive tactics and disproportionate incarceration of minorities in for-profit prisons.

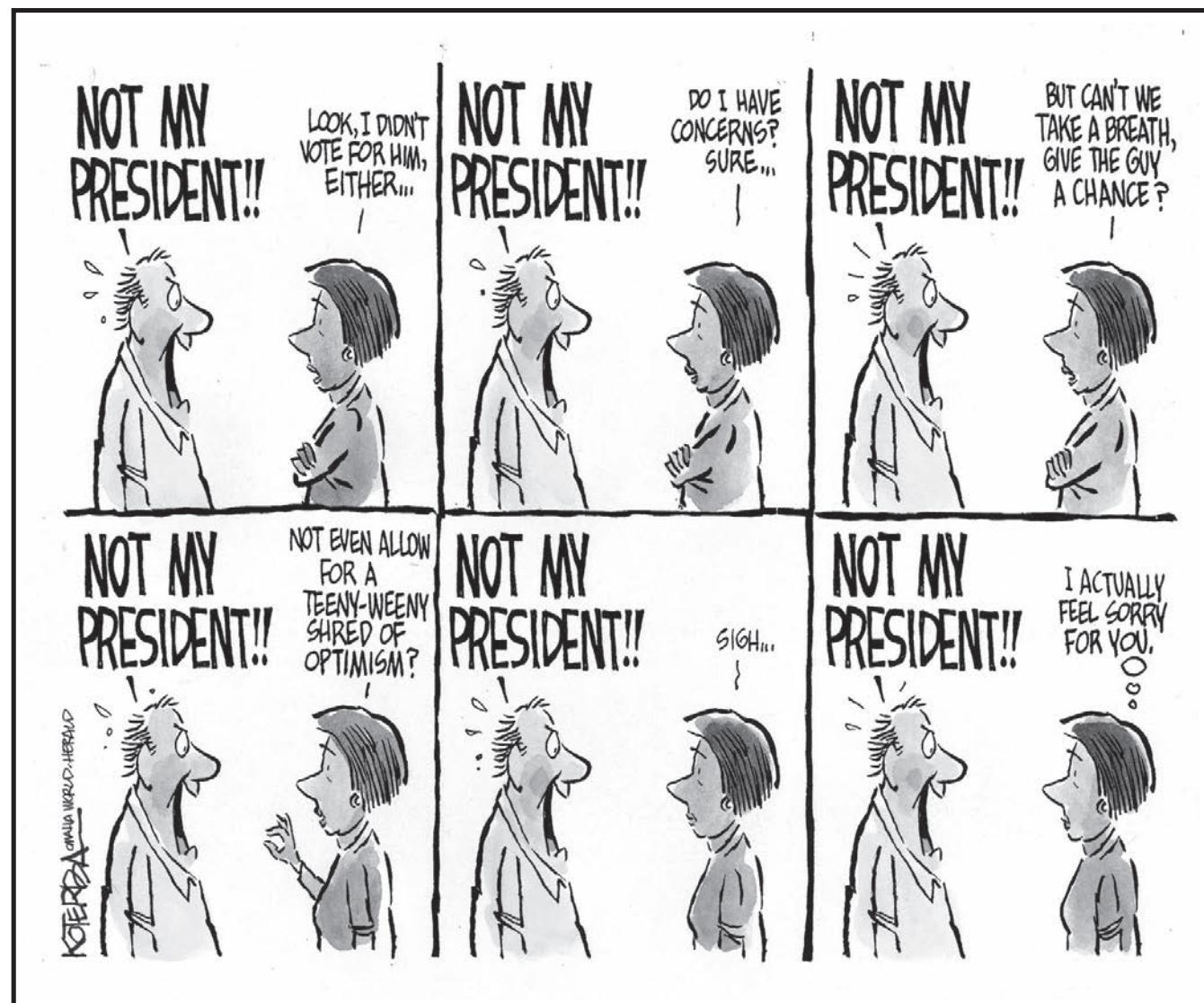
Trump's policy moves on such fronts must be evaluated on their merits, without being prejudiced by Trump's personality and past behavior.

This is especially hard given the unacceptable misogyny and malicious behavior Trump demonstrated during the campaign.

Even so, that does not relieve us of our civic duty or elected officials _ of both parties _ of their obligation to pursue solutions and compromise.

The parallel is with those who refused to accept President Obama and obstructed him at every turn. Obama deserved an open mind and a chance to prove himself and at this point, so does Trump. Accepting the Trump presidency does not mean giving him carte blanche, endorsing his bad ideas or forgiving poor behavior. It's about making the most

See ACCEPT on Next Page



How to cover Trump? Literally and seriously

Facing the looming realities of President Donald Trump, media outlets have been chewing nervously on an unusual question: How do we cover this guy?

Of course, although one would be hard-pressed to name any president who has made the reporter's life easy, none until now have been known to taunt the press—and urge their supporters to join them—as eagerly and unpredictably as Trump has done on Twitter.

But the chilliness in Trump's media relations almost iced over amid reports a few days before his swearing-in that press secretary Sean Spicer was considering pulling news media offices out of the White House.

After reporters put up a howl, Trump said in the friendly confines of "Fox and Friends" he decided not to move the press briefings, even though he still wanted more room to invite more reporters. The reporters, he said in a mocking tone, will "be begging for a much larger room very soon. You watch." Ha, ha.

What anti-media mischief will he try next? He's banned some news organizations from covering him. He has openly praised the idea of loosening libel laws to make it easier to sue media.

He has flouted the norms of regular pool reporting and news conferences. He has herded his traveling reporters into a pen at his rallies and jeered them as "scum," "absolutely dishonest" and other choice Trumpisms, just to thrill the crowd.

Such antics only underscore the goofy relationship between Trump and the media that Salena Zito captured so well in her Trump coverage for The Atlantic: "(The) press takes him literally but not seriously; his supporters take him seriously but not literally."

Zito described an old and vastly underappreciated quirk of human nature. Journalists are conditioned to value facts as closely tied to one's credibility. Trump talks like a stand-up comedian or the family yarn-spinner. He mangles facts in a way that sounds to willing ears like it has touched a deeper truth.

So how, the media community asks itself, should reporters cover the presidency of Donald Trump who, as the Columbia Journalism Review recently observed, operates like a media organization himself?

I think that, despite the new bells and whistles of this digital age, the fundamentals of covering presidents or any other public servant still apply.

One, we should be adversarial without being hostile—even as the newsmaker and his or her followers are calling us "scum" and other unkind things. Sticks and stones may break or bones

By CLARENCE PAGE

Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.



but we have deadlines to meet.

Two, dodge his dodges. Trump has been promoting his name as a valuable brand across multiple platforms since the 1970s. He is a master of distractions.

Notice how he became agitated over the politics of Broadway's "Hamilton" cast on a day when his angry tweets could take the spotlight away from his \$25 million settlement of fraud charges by customers of Trump University.

Notice how his stubborn refusal to take a question from CNN's Jim Acosta in a live news conference took attention away from the big issue in the question: Intelligence chiefs, CNN said, had presented a 35-page dossier to president-elect Trump and to President Barack Obama that suggested Russian President Vladimir Putin had gathered compromising information from spying on Trump's visits to Russia.

The media should keep their eyes on the prize. Focus on the story that's most important, not just click-bait for eyeballs on the web.

Three, it is not a "media conspiracy" for reporters to band together in pursuit of accountability from public officials. When a president refuses to take an important question from one reporter, the next reporter should offer up the same question.

Something close to that Spartacus-like uprising occurred in September. When Trump allowed only photographers, not reporters, on his "press" tour of his new Washington, D.C., hotel, major television networks refused to use the pictures or video

That's the spirit. Reporters are not obligated to give any more free publicity to Trump's hotel. Try to limit journos and they tend to turn with increased vigor to potential stories that the newsmaker is least likely to want publicized.

As a former city editor of mine used to bark: Don't get mad, get nosy!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Finu` Man-amku`

Gi krineansan man-amku` guaha `nai mamensiona para tana` la-anaku` fan atan-ta ke puntan guieñg-ta. Sumen presisu na asuntu piot para ayu siha i mangaike gi hegsu` imperadot I Deni`.

Ti namanman na finenina betsan niha ya suette yangin mahuressesidat publiku. Mas mañogñug pinadesin tautau-ta mientras sigi i tropan I Deni` magosa i guaguan na sueddun niha.

I punto ni sessu mamalefan ñaihon: chechu` kabisiyu finenina i interes publiku. Lau anog na taigue este na punto gi kuentas niha. Fan egaga` ya in` ta`lun kumatsa haf` na mangaige hamyu guennau siha na puestu. Siempre ta husga punto pot punto haf che`chu` miyu para in` adelanta ha`anen tautau-ta siha.

Priniponen Dinaña`

Guaha doku` priniponen dinaña` Marianas yan Guahan guine gi alacha. Un` asuntu na madispacha desde uttimun sisienta siha na sakan. Mapau dispues i asuntu desde ayu na tiempu.

I asuntun sankattan pot sueddus, sanlichan man-gu`ot mahetug. Chà`gu i dos diniseha. Pa`gu mafá` tampon sinetnet i kuttura. Kulan mohon u matai kuttura yangin taya` dinaña`.

Mampus attifisius este `nai mapega. Yangin guaha sattun na inadahe pues gaige gi halum guma` familia i kutturan natibu. Haf` tafana`gue famaguon-ta desde liñguahen yan che`chu` echu tautau siempre siha muna` ma`lag i guafen achon kuttura yan tradision si kareran niha.

Poresu na tihu fabobot este na pinetsige `nai mampus oppan na ni hita mismu titi`e manu `nai gaige pisun kuttura. Bira hamyu halum gi gima` miyu ya in praktika kutturan tanu` sa` siempre areglau hinanauta.

Lokue`, guaha `nai in` faisen maisa hamyu hafa identifidat kutturan Chamorro (cultural identity)? Haf` sustansiaña segun gi sineda` miyu? Mauleg ta onsi i guaka yangin enfin esta tatuñgu` para manu hit! Gi pa`gu, sige hit manliliku` gi oriyan karetan guaka ta espipihi i yabi! A`saina!

Tinilaika: Ilegña un` kanta na `nai tiempomu “kulan hau makinan manlagsi...ni bibu” dispues “kulan hau fugun manug” gi chinatsaga. Kasi klaru i moralidat i kanta. Ayu mina` ilegnini-ha i man-amku` muñiga mabadisosuye i asuntu. Guaha chagchag manana yan minachom atdau.

I para un` banidosuye disposision linahyan `nai memegaiña unna` fan chatsaga siempre ennau na disision un` fiñañague dispues. Piot ya gaige gi asuntun hinaguñg familia mas dañikulu na kuenta katgomu. Este ti umahñau! Kada diskuidu un` luñu` linala` familia tres años tatte.

Kau un` agradesi yangin hagu mapega guennau na estau pot diskuidun mankabisiyu? Tinahuñg mensahe ginen i mas ke tres mit na tautau-ta ni dumíñgu i tanu` siete años malofan? Kau mañgonfome hamyu na pot diskuidun miyu na mama` sasalaguan tanu` natibu na tiempu?

ACCEPT

From Page 10

of the situation.

Vigilance is needed to prevent the Trump administration from diminishing essential rights and liberties, or further disrupting international order that has prevented world war for 70 years and improved global health and living standards.

Patience is needed, to give Trump a chance to prove whether he will live up to his better promises and develop a coherent and viable strategy to improve the country.

We don't yet know whether Trump will bring a fresh perspective or give in to the special interests and Beltway insiders he vowed to clear from the swamp. Optimism on this front is harder, given all the lobbyists, ideologues and tycoons on Trump's transition team and cabinet list.

At the same time, there are flickers of moderation. Trump has hinted that he'll be less extreme about climate change, health-care reform, immigration, the Iran nuclear deal and prosecuting Clinton.

These minor drifts to the middle, away from bombast and toward reasonableness, should be coaxed along like the first sparks when building a campfire in the rain. Trump may go low, but the rest of us need to go high, and show our novice leader the best way forward.

Americans elected a president who promised change. It's time for us to engage and encourage President Trump to make those changes for the greater good, while holding him accountable to his promise of prosperity and greatness for all.

Bandera: Dos kompanian globus pot ekonomia numa`e gradu i Imperial Pacific International gi fuetsan moneda: dibi, obligacion yan abilitat man-apasi dibi. Baba na gradu ha resibi i IPI.

Haf` kumeke ilegña este? Tai pisu asegurau na fondu i Best Sunshine para una` fonhayan hinatsasaña casino guine. Guaha finu` paska na kuentus na mauleg na fondu ha gugu`ot para una` fonhayan fasilitatñia. Puede magahet sa` mampus suspichosu este na karera.

Adelantu? Kada guaha dididi` hinalum fondu ma-annunzia na mas mauleg i ekonomia. Gi mismu tiempu chinofileg i suspichosu na adelantu ni manadan dibi! Mamatinas \$43 miyon lau i dibi \$53 miyon ya ti sumasaunau i otru mas te`ug na hagas dibi siha.

Gi mismu tiempu puru saulag supin tasi na kinalamten sin planu. Buente manprofessot ekonomia i mansabiun i hegsu` hombre manmatatñga masaulag kaprechu dichu asuntun linahyan. Sin planu mas siempre u chatsaga kinalamten i tautau-ta siha gi señgsoñg.

Gi uttimu besis hagu para un` oppen maisa hau haf` bidamu para un` adelanta monedan familia gi halum tetminomu gi offisian publiku. Siempre un` ñgañgas haf` pinegamu gi lamasena.

Filan Ha`ilas: Gi tinilaikan administrasion gi 1961 tat hoben ti sumaunau gi inaligau mantencion familia diariu. Megai afagcha`hu gi kantun tasi yan hegsu` siha guine entre man-etochi sino bronzi yan haf siha ma-apprubechu ginen halum tanu`.

Gi finagpu` ha`ane, man-asoda` ham ta`lu para bai`n bendihinekan mami bronzi para neñkanu` yan nesessidat familia siha.

Trump has chance to prove us wrong

Someday, Donald John Trump's portrait will hang in the White House gallery.

He will be in the company of some of America's most admired presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt. But what will history have to say about Trump?

The story of his presidency begins today. How it unfolds is up to him.

Many Americans are unimpressed by the preface. A presidential campaign tainted with bigotry, misogyny and hatred is not the kind of storyline that intrigues and holds us spellbound. It is the kind of introduction that makes us wary.

So today, multitudes of Americans of every race, ethnic group and religion did not travel from the tiniest corners of the nation to see Trump sworn in the way we did for Barack Obama eight years ago. Instead, we will march in solidarity in Washington and cities all over America to demand more from our new president than he has promised to give.

On this day in 2009, we stood shoulder to shoulder by the thousands—young and old, rich and poor—in the blistering cold, gleaned each other's strength and radiating the optimism that the election of the first African-American president ignited in us.

We were proud to have accomplished such a milestone in our nation's history. It was a symbol of progressiveness, tolerance and of our faith in democracy. Now we fear that this Inauguration Day marks a roadblock in our journey, one that forces us to turn around and retrace our steps.

So on this day in 2017—perhaps the brightest one in Trump's life—our television sets will go dark and our radios, silent. We will not cheer the arrival of this America that Trump has championed. And no way will we idly sit back and allow it to form.

None of us wants to see our great nation fail. Though skeptical of our new leader, there is nothing we'd like more than to stand proudly behind him and lend our support. But how can we believe in someone we cannot respect?

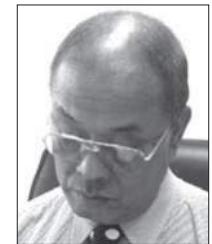
As of today, President Trump is the most powerful man in the free world. But that does not make him the most respected. Respect isn't something that comes automatically with the presidential title. Respect is bestowed only when it is earned.

It doesn't mean that we have to agree with every decision the president makes. But we have to believe that whatever he does is for the good of our country. Right now, some of us aren't sure that Trump will do right by every American. In spite of what he says, we question whether he has the nation's best interest at heart.

An inaugural address full of promises about uniting the country does nothing to bring Americans closer. We have heard too

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Diariu gi gualu` gi finagpu` eskuela para bai`n assisti pinegsai yan tinanum mami. Este solu `nai in` seseda` mantencion mami.

Hu hassu tatte fasun aya siha na mañeluta. Tat ti numa`e animu gi estudiu niha kada tiempun eskuela. Sigi mona, manfelis offisiu niha desde maestro, infetmra, sekretaria, administradot offisina sino eskuela, yan otru siha manmauleg na offisiu.

Haf` na leksion hu hoka ginen este na finapus mami? Gaige gi entalu` filan manbendin bronzi uno sino mas ni para u ginoso mauleg na offisiu dispues pot todou animun niha. Ni uno semeha pumetsige humagu` i sigienti pasu para u fattu gi chiña.

Apasiyun todou siniñgun gi halum mattirun tiempun ha`ilas. Mauleg na bendision ginen hilu` sa` tita repiti gi famaguon-ta ayu na sapet siha. Kulan premiu para guahu i man-mames na memorias hagas chalan iya ham.

By DAHLEEN GLANTON

Chicago Tribune



Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may email her at dglanton@chicagotribune.com.

many meaningless words already.

Photos with rapper Kanye West, comedian Steve Harvey or Martin Luther King III in the lobby of Trump Tower won't convince African-Americans that Trump is sincere about fixing urban neighborhoods.

If Trump really wants blacks to believe that he cares about crime and is a champion for justice, he should appoint an attorney general who believes in equality. Not Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, who allegedly has referred to the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as “un-American” and joked about the Ku Klux Klan being “OK.”

If Trump believed that children are the backbone of America's future, he would appoint an education secretary who will fight to make public education a pathway out of poverty and despair. Not someone like Betsy DeVos, who is clueless about public schools and thinks that enforcement of the federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act should be left up to the states.

If Trump believed in America, he would fight for the rights of young people brought here without legal documents, so they can remain in the only country they know as home. He would understand that from the moment immigrants landed in the New World, “Dreamers” have been the seeds of the American family.

If Trump truly wanted to make America great, he would swallow his pride and acknowledge his mistakes. He would forget about asking Congress to fund a wall along the Mexico border. He would demand economic parity and pay equity for women. He would fight to uphold the civil rights of lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender Americans. He would embark on a mission to ensure that Muslims, Christians, Jews and every other religious group could practice their faith without fear of reprisal.

Until Trump earns the respect of the majority of American people, he will continue to be our most popular meme. We will poke fun at his tweets and laugh out loud when Alec Baldwin portrays him as a bumbling idiot on “Saturday Night Live.” But it will be a nervous laughter, an attempt to conceal the fear that Trump ignites in us.

Many of us are convinced that Trump will never have what it takes to make America great. But deep inside we're hoping he'll take hold of his narrative and allow history to someday prove us wrong.

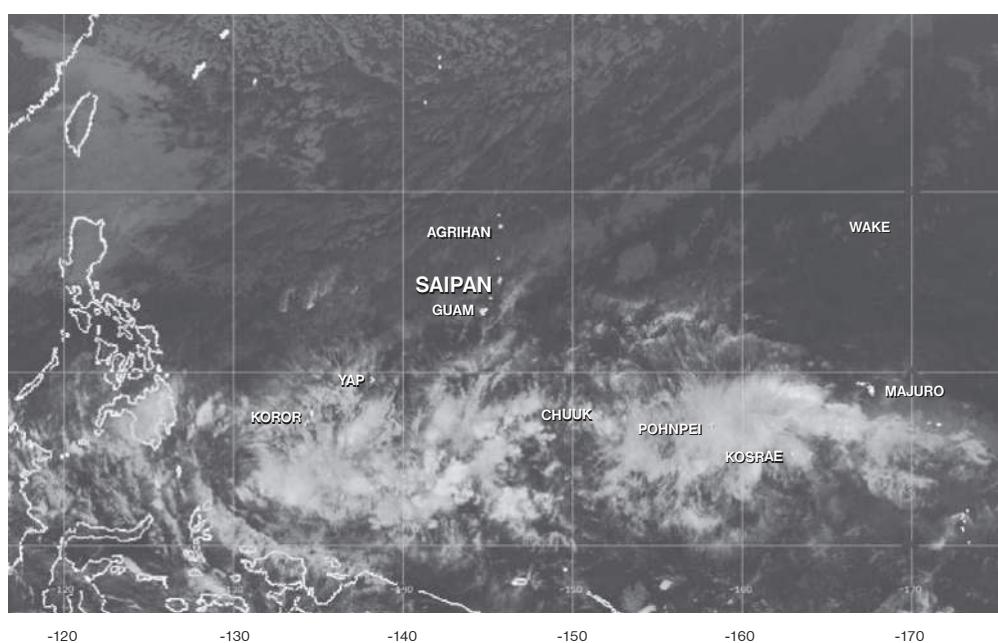
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 85°	▼ 76°	▲ 85°	▼ 76°	▲ 86°	▼ 77°	▲ 86°	▼ 77°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:42 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line was draped across the Marianas this morning. The shear line will remain over the local area through at least Thursday night. With the shear line over the area mostly cloudy skies will prevail through Thursday night. Even though skies will be mostly cloudy, showers will remain isolated as deep layer moisture will remain shallow. The GFS shows a circulation passing south of the Marianas and south of 10N Wednesday through Friday while the ECMWF does not. The GFS hints at low-level convergence north of the circulation prolonging the mostly cloudy skies over the Marianas through at least Friday night. GFS also suggest that period of scattered showers are possible during that time. The ECMWF does not show this and appears more realistic at this time...so kept showers isolated through the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:08 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.07
7:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
12:19 PM	LOW TIDE	1.16
5:21 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:12 AM	3:52 PM	-
Thursday	5:01 AM	4:42 PM	-
Friday	5:51 AM	5:34 PM	-
Saturday	6:39 AM	6:27 PM	-
Sunday	7:26 AM	7:21 PM	-

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily			UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily		
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily			UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily		
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7		
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6			UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota		
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily			UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily		
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily			UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)		
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN		
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily			DL298 10:25am 2:55pm Daily		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
TW308 2:35am 6:25am Daily			LJ651 8:25am 1:45pm Daily		
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1			ZE581 9:50am 3:20pm Daily		
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily		
TW308 3:05am 6:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			TW307 8:15pm 1:35am+1 Daily		
OZ628 3:50am 7:40am Daily			OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7		
7C3403 4:35am 8:30am Daily			OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
LJ652 3:10pm 7:05pm Daily			TW307 8:45pm 2:05am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5		
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily			OZ627 9:30pm 2:50am+1 Daily		
ZE582 4:30pm 9:05pm Daily			7C3404 10:10pm 3:30am+1 Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
7C3451 2:55am 6:10am 1, 7			7C3452 8:30pm 1:20am+1 6, 7		
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 7			OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 6		
7C3451 3:15am 6:30am 4, 5			7C3452 9:35pm 2:15am+1 3, 4		
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN		
7C3433 3:55am 7:30am 3, 7			7C3434 10:05pm 2:40am+1 2, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
3U8648 5:40am 8:00am 1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU764 1:30am 6:55am 3, 5, 7					

Whispering Palms School prepares for auction

Whispering Palms School students were busy this week putting the final touches on the classroom projects they were making to support the school's annual Wine and Tapas Auction. Each classroom prepared items to be auctioned at the public event to be held on Friday, Jan. 27, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan beginning at 6pm.

The youngest students, aged 4 and 5, had help creating a framed collage of photographed hearts formed by the preschoolers' hands. The lower elementary students in grades 1 to 3 created a map of the Northern Marianas using their fingerprints and colored paint. The upper elementary students worked together to create a collage of local nature photographs. Taking used pallets, the middle school students sanded and painted them to create original wall hangings. This is an event that is organized by parents, and everyone at Whispering Palms has a part to play in preparing for the auction, from organizing, selling tickets, collecting auction items, to



Lower elementary school students create fingerprint pictures.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fourth grade students show photos that they took themselves.

set up for the event.

The Wine and Tapas Auction has been a regular event for Whispering Palms School for the last seven years. Beginning at 6pm, adults will have

the opportunity to sample wines, bid on silent auction items, participate in a live

auction, and play games. In addition to the projects made by the students, items to be

auctioned include hotel stays, dinners, a unique surfboard, a skydiving experience, sports club memberships, and many more items of interest. The money raised at the auction will support the construction of an enhanced playground for pre-school students and other school projects such as the annual Mañagaha trip. Ticket

prices are \$35 for advanced purchase and \$40 at the door. Tickets can be purchased from Whispering Palms parents or at the school. The school phone number is 323-7451.

Whispering Palms School is a private school for 4 year olds through the 8th grade, located on Navy Hill, and has open enrollment year-round. (WPS)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elena shows how to create hearts with hands.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Middle school students sand rough pallets.

Tinian benefits from supplemental funding

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both Rota and Tinian will reportedly soon be at the receiving end of major improvement projects at all their respective schools in the coming weeks, according to the education commissioner.

Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero reported to the Board of Education on Monday that Rota and Tinian would greatly benefit from Public Law 19-75. PL 19-75 provides supple-

mental funding for several government agencies. The Public School System received about \$10 million from this new law.

In a trip to Rota and Tinian that spanned the first two weeks of January, Deleon Guerrero, accompanied by the PSS leadership, visited Rota and Tinian campuses to evaluate projects that would benefit from the supplemental funds.

After meeting with both Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas and Rota Mayor Efren Atalig and their respective senators,

Deleon Guerrero was able to come up with a list of projects for both islands, based on their priority.

On Tinian, the priority is the Tinian Elementary School. The No. 1 priority for TES goes to building a septic tank to prevent backflow of sewage into the campus.

Deleon Guerrero also raised the issue about an open manhole that is a hazard due to its close proximity to the Tinian campus.

"This is a great hazard for anyone, especially for students

who may fall into this. [The manhole] was addressed immediately during our visit," said Deleon Guerrero to the BOE.

Building 1 at TES would undergo repair to stop leaks. The removal of non-working school buses and vans that are still on school property, to be assisted by DPW and Mayor's Office, is also on the priority list for TES, as well as the removal of the old restroom that is a safety hazard and is located in the middle of the TES campus.

The commissioner also eyes perimeter fence and air conditioning repairs for TES.

The Tinian Junior/Senior High School would be getting repairs and replacement of damaged parts caused by termite infestation, including the treatment of the termite infestation problem of the school itself.

Repairs to the track and field and water drainage system as well as the increase of bandwidth and acquisition of necessary equipment to increase connectivity would also be addressed.

Tinian was appropriated \$500,000 from P.L. 19-75, but Deleon Guerrero thinks the amount is still not enough.

"\$500,000 might not be sufficient, but we would work our way down the list," said Deleon Guerrero.

BOE representative Florine Hofschneider commended the commissioner for paying attention to Tinian.

[Deleon Guerrero] was listening to what the [Tinian] community is saying and [Deleon Guerrero] is responding to what their needs are. In doing this, I have noticed that one of [Deleon Guerrero's] strengths is the power to listen. To a leader, that is an incredible asset," she said. "She is off to a good start."

Business

Trump moves to pull US out of big Asia trade deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Charting a new American course abroad, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership on Monday, using one of his first actions in office to reject a centerpiece of Barack Obama's attempts to counter China and deepen U.S. ties in Asia.

Trump's move on trade aimed to fulfill a central campaign promise even as he appeared to be fixated on re-litigating the 2016 election.

In a meeting with congressional leaders on Monday night, Trump claimed that 3 to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally voted in the election, costing him the popular vote, according to a Democratic aide familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting. There has been no evidence to back up that claim.

Trump's assertions came in a White House meeting with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. They were similar to claims he made on Twitter in late November that he had won the electoral college



AP In this Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 file photo, Vice President Mike Pence, left, and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, right, watch as President Donald Trump signs an executive order to withdraw the U.S. from the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact agreed to under the Obama administration in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

in a "landslide" and "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes despite losing the

electoral college.

Trump aimed to make jobs and the economy the focal point of his first few days in office. He has repeatedly cast the 12-nation trade pact—which

was eagerly sought by U.S. allies in Asia—as detrimental to American businesses.

"Great thing for the American worker that we just did," Trump said in brief remarks as he signed

a notice in the Oval Office.

The Obama administration spent years negotiating the Pacific Rim pact, though the mood in Washington on trade soured over time. Obama never sent the accord to Congress for ratification, making Trump's actions Monday largely symbolic.

Samsung's earnings more than double on record chip profits

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics said Tuesday that its fourth-quarter profit more than doubled over a year earlier thanks to record-high earnings from its brisk memory chip business and strong smartphone sales, despite costly Galaxy Note 7 recalls.

The South Korean company said it posted 7.1 trillion won (\$6.1 billion) in net income during the October-December period, compared with 3.2 trillion

won a year earlier.

Analysts surveyed by FactSet, a financial data provider, expected 6.52 trillion won.

Sales stayed flat at 53.3 trillion won (\$45.6 billion), the company said in a regulatory filing. Operating profit surged 50 percent over a year earlier to 9.2 trillion won (\$7.9 billion), in line with Samsung's guidance earlier this month.

The company, the world's largest maker of smartphones, television sets and memory

chips, said its earnings during the current quarter will likely decline because of weaker TV sales and higher marketing expenses for the mobile business.

Samsung's earnings beat the forecasts even as it reels from troubles from a political scandal and the discontinuation of its fire-prone Galaxy Note 7, which has cost it at least \$5 billion since the third quarter. On Monday, the company said battery design flaws and manufacturing errors by suppliers made

some of the phones overheat or burst into fire.

The biggest force behind Samsung's forecast-beating earnings was its semiconductor businesses, which contributed more than half of the company's quarterly operating profit. Samsung made 5 trillion won (\$4.3 billion) in operating profit from its semiconductor division alone, thanks to higher demand for memory chips from mobile device makers and server operators.

man Thomas Wheeler had overstepped its bounds, suggesting that he would steer the agency in a direction more favorable to big phone and cable companies.

Pai, an active Twitter user, posted Monday that "there is so much we can do together to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans and to promote innovation and investment."

Pai has long maintained that the FCC under former Chair-

cates that upset many phone and cable industry groups, including net neutrality rules that bar internet service providers from favoring some websites and apps over others.

Pai, an active Twitter user, posted Monday that "there is so much we can do together to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans and to promote innovation and investment."

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iPhone assembler Foxconn may invest \$7B in US display plant

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The Taiwanese company that assembles Apple's iPhones and other electronics is considering investing \$7 billion in a U.S. factory to produce display panels that would create as many as 50,000 jobs.

Foxconn CEO Terry Gou discussed the potential expansion Sunday during a company meeting in Taiwan. His comments were broadcast by Taiwanese media.

Foxconn, founded by Gou in 1974, assembles smartphones and other devices for Apple, Sony, Blackberry and other brands. Most of its operations are in mainland China, where its vast factories employ more than 1 million people.

Little-known to consumers, Gou's company raised its global profile with its purchase last year of Japan's

Sharp Corp., which is decades older than Foxconn but was struggling financially.

A Foxconn partner, SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, revealed the company was considering a \$7 billion investment in the United States after a December meeting with then-President-elect Donald Trump.

Gou said a decision would depend on factors including whether a state where the factory might be built would be willing to provide low-cost land or power. He said if the plant is built, it would work with Sharp.

"If American state governments were willing to provide these terms and we calculate it is cheaper than shipping from China or Japan, why shouldn't Sharp build a factory in the United States?" Gou said.

'Net neutrality' foe Ajit Pai is new FCC head

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump has picked a fierce critic of the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules to be chief regulator of the nation's airwaves and internet connections.

In a statement Monday, Ajit Pai said he was grateful to the president for choosing him as the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Several reports last week had said he was the pick.

Pai had been one of the two

Republican commissioners on a five-member panel that regulates the country's communications infrastructure, including TV, phone and internet service.

There are currently just three members on the panel. The Republicans' new majority at the FCC, along with their control of Congress and the White House, is expected to help them roll back policies applauded by consumer advo-



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
19,799.85	2,265.20	5,552.94
-27.40	-6.11	-2.39
-0.14%	-0.27%	-0.04%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.3203	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7575	Russian Ruble	59.3484
British Pound	0.7999	Indian Rupee	68.125	Singapore Dollar	1.4173
Canadian Dollar	1.3235	Japanese Yen	113.021	South Korean Won	1163.7
Chinese Yuan	6.8491	Malaysian Ringgit	4.4198	Swiss Franc	0.9976
Euro	0.9296	New Zealand Dollar	1.3827	Taiwan Dollar	31.342
				Thailand Baht	35.18

Nation



'The windows exploded': Storm death toll at 20 in the South

ALBANY, Ga. (AP)—A tornado warning on television sent Anthony Mitchell, his pregnant wife and their three children scrambling for what little shelter their mobile home could provide. They crouched in a hallway as the twister started taking their home apart piece by piece.

"The windows exploded, the doors flew off the hinges, the sheet rock started to rip off the walls and fly out the windows," Mitchell said. "The trailer started to lift up. And about that time a tree fell on the trailer, and I think that's what held the trailer in place from flying away."

An unusual midwinter barrage of tornadoes and thunderstorms over the weekend was blamed for at least 20 deaths across the Deep South. Among them were three people killed at Big Pine Estates, the mobile home park in Albany where the Williams family lives.

A twister slammed into the southwestern Georgia city of 76,000 people on Sunday afternoon, carving a path of destruction a half-mile wide in places and leaving the landscape strewn with broken trees and mangled sheet metal. Few of the roughly 200 homes at the trailer park escaped damage from the tornado, which was rated by forecasters as at least an EF-2, meaning it packed winds of 111 to 135 mph.

In addition to the three dead at Big Pine Estates, a fourth body was discovered at a home just outside the trailer park.

Mitchell lost his home and marveled that he didn't lose his life, too.

"Something helped us walk out the front door of the house," he said. "There's some people who weren't fortunate enough to have a front door to walk out of."

Georgia reported 15 deaths Sunday, and four people died Saturday in Mississippi. In northern Florida, a woman died after a tree crashed into her home in Lake City as a storm passed through.

The National Weather Ser-

vices said 39 possible tornadoes were reported over the weekend. The agency sent out teams to examine the damage and confirm how many of the storms were twisters, which can happen any time of year but are far more common in the spring and early summer.

A day after the violent weather passed, search crews looked for people and pets in the Albany trailer park, stepping over tree limbs and ducking under splintered pine trunks as they went from home to home. One team discovered

a terrified dog in a smashed-in trailer, where it had spent the night. Authorities said the pet owner's fate was unknown.

In rural Cook County, about 60 miles southeast of Albany, Aretha Allen prayed aloud in front of the First Baptist Church, where a shelter was set up after a possible tornado destroyed about half the homes at the Sunshine Acres mobile home park.

Allen said her niece, 41-year-old Lawansa Perry, and the niece's brother both lived there, and she drove out

to try to help them after hearing the park had been hit.

"We were looking, looking," Allen said, "but couldn't find them."

The coroner later confirmed seven people were found dead at Sunshine Acres. Authorities said the victims included the niece and her brother.

"They died in the storm trying to save her grandchildren," she said, adding the children survived. "I know they've gone on to Jesus."

At Sunshine Acres on Monday, crews with cadaver dogs

checked the wreckage a second day for anyone dead or alive.

But the dogs found nothing, and authorities said owners would finally be allowed back Tuesday on those destroyed and damaged lots deemed safe.

Devocheo Williams, 29, said his home was demolished the day after he moved in.

"The whole trailer park was gone in 15 seconds," Williams said, describing a funnel cloud that appeared to loop back around and hit the neighborhood a second time. "It looked like a ball of fire was going 100 mph."

Williams said he saw a little girl picked up by the winds and tossed into a ditch. Nearby, the girl's mother and a baby were trapped in rubble. He said he helped dig them out.

Not everyone could be saved.

"I was walking by dead bodies of little kids and grown people," Williams said.

Williams and others left homeless by the storm huddled Monday at the First Baptist Church in Adel, a rural community of about 5,300.

Residents turned out in force to help the victims. The church quickly collected an abundance of donated clothing and toiletries. Volunteers cooked free meals for survivors and emergency workers.

"We have turned away more people that just wanted to help because we just can't put them down here," said Brent Exum, chief investigator for the sheriff's department.

ACROSS THE NATION

Senate panel narrowly backs Trump's choice for top diplomat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rex Tillerson's bid to be secretary of state narrowly won approval Monday from the Republican-led Foreign Relations Committee, a move that all but assures the full Senate will confirm President Donald Trump's pick for the key Cabinet post. Members of the panel voted along party lines, 11-10, to back Tillerson following a contentious confirmation hearing nearly two weeks ago that stoked concerns he might not win the panel's recommendation. But just hours before members cast their votes, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., declared his support for Tillerson, backing off from a challenge to the new president. Rubio said that despite serious reservations

about Tillerson, particularly over his views on Russia, he believed a president was entitled to significant deference in assembling his Cabinet. None of the committee's 10 Democrats voted for Tillerson. They cited concerns Tillerson would continue to view the world through the lens of a corporate executive and not the nation's chief diplomat.

White House press secretary: 'Our intention is never to lie'

NEW YORK (AP)—White House press secretary Sean Spicer told a roomful of reporters that "our intention is never to lie to you," although sometimes the Trump administration may "disagree with the facts." Spicer's first full press briefing was closely watched Monday following

a weekend statement about President Donald Trump's inauguration audience that included incorrect assertions. After White House counselor Kellyanne Conway received wide social media attention for her explanation that Spicer had presented "alternative facts," Monday's briefing was televised live on CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC and, for a time, even ABC.

Meanwhile, ABC announced that anchor David Muir would interview Trump for a one-hour prime-time special to air at 10 p.m. EST Wednesday.

Bush ready to leave intensive care; wife Barbara goes home

HOUSTON (AP)—Former President George H.W. Bush is still suffering from pneumonia, but is well enough to

leave the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital, doctors said Monday. His wife, Barbara, has been discharged from the same facility after completing treatment for bronchitis. The 92-year-old former president was struggling to breathe when he was admitted to the Houston Methodist Hospital Jan. 14.

Last week, he was breathing with the aid of a ventilator in the ICU, but doctors removed the breathing tube on Friday and by Monday were talking about the possibility that he could return home soon.

Dr. Amy Mynderse said at a news conference that the former president is "sitting up, watching TV and is waiting anxiously for his favorite oyster stew for lunch." "He's on minimal oxygen, joking and laughing with the nurses and doctors," she said.

Asia

Push to save Pacific Rim trade deal after US exits TPP pact

SYDNEY (AP)—Several countries expressed hope Tuesday that the Trans-Pacific Partnership could be salvaged, after President Donald Trump's decision on a U.S. withdrawal from the trade pact left its future in serious jeopardy.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull acknowledged Trump's move was a massive blow to the 12-nation agreement, but suggested other countries, such as China, may help fill the void left by the U.S.

"Losing the United States from the TPP is a big loss, there is no question about that," Turnbull told reporters. "But we are not about to walk away from our commitment to Australian jobs."

As expected, Trump used one of his first actions in office to officially abandon the trade deal on Monday, dubbing it a detriment to American businesses. He favors one-on-one agreements with other nations over multinational pacts.

Leaders of some of the 11 other nations involved in the initiative earlier said they would move forward with the

agreement in some form, with or without the U.S.

Turnbull said he had discussed the pact's future recently with the prime ministers of Japan, Singapore and New Zealand, all TPP members, and believed the pact could survive without the U.S.

Other TPP members are Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

"All of us are working to see how we can ensure we maintain this momentum toward open markets and free trade," Turnbull said. "Believe me, protectionism is not a ladder to get you out of the low growth trap. It is a shovel to dig it deeper."

The U.S. about-face on the deal is a setback for leaders of other TPP countries who invested political capital in fighting to get it ratified.

That includes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who told lawmakers during parliamentary debate that he hoped to gain Trump's "understanding" on the TPP's importance. Abe has said he hopes to meet with Trump as soon as possible.

Japan completed the TPP ratification process last week,

well aware Trump planned to drop out. Abe said its goals were still important for Japan and the TPP could be a model for trade deals with other nations, including those in Europe.

Malaysia's Second Trade Minister Ong Ka Chuan said that the remaining 11 TPP members will meet to discuss the next steps.

"Twelve countries signed the (TPP), but now one wants out. The other 11 can continue by making changes to the clauses. There are many possibilities that these 11 countries can still proceed with," the Bernama news agency quoted him as saying. He didn't elaborate.

Turnbull said that in theory China could join the pact following the U.S. departure. But that would require a revamp of the deal. In its current form, the TPP can only take effect after it is ratified by six countries that account for 85 percent of its members' combined gross domestic product. The U.S. made up 60 percent of the TPP's combined GDP, so it could not be implemented as it stands now.

Though he didn't suggest

Trump himself would reverse his position, Turnbull did say the U.S. eventually might.

"You have to recognize that his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, has been a longtime advocate for it," Turnbull said, referring to Trump's nominee. "The Republican Party in the Congress have been strong supporters of the TPP. It is possible that U.S. policy could change over time on this, as it has done on other trade deals."

New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English showed little enthusiasm for a "one-on-one" bilateral trade deal with the U.S.

"If you ask me today, I'd say there's a pretty low chance of that happening in a form that we'd find satisfactory," Prime Minister Bill English told reporters in Wellington. "But we wouldn't want to rule it out, any more than we'd want to rule out other versions of progress on free trade, with TPP or not."

English said he agrees with his predecessor John Key's view that the U.S. risks ceding some influence to China in the Pacific without the TPP.

"That's why I've indicated

we'd be interested in preserving the option or of finding other ways of encouraging the engagement of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific," English said.

Although losing the U.S. as part of the pact means losing nearly two-thirds of its market, English said the initiative was still advantageous for New Zealand and therefore worth pursuing.

Whatever the deal's fate, the region shows no sign of retreating from the market-opening trend that helped transform its many developing nations into a relatively stable zone of affluent, middle-income economies.

The greater concern is the uncertainty generated by Trump's threats to impose tariffs of up to 45 percent on some imports. The U.S. is the largest single market for China and Japan, and indirectly a huge source of demand for many of the commodities and goods produced across the region.

Closing U.S. doors to trade may well backfire, said Ong.

"The U.S. was the one encouraging free trade," Ong said. "Suddenly, it is now trying to stop it. There's a possibility this would trigger retaliation by a number of other countries."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's birthrate rises after one-child policy loosened

BEIJING (AP)—The number of births in China has risen nearly 8 percent in the year after the government loosened its unpopular one-child policy. China's National Health and Family Planning Commission said this week that 17.86 million children were born last year, an increase of 1.31 million from 2015. Nearly half of the children born were to couples who already had a child, the commission said. China enacted its one-child policy in 1979 to control population growth, enforced with fines and in some cases state-mandated abortions. But it now faces a rapidly aging workforce and the prospect of not having enough younger workers to support them. It has gradually allowed more exemptions to the policy, such as allowing rural couples to have a second child if their first was a girl, before moving to let all married couples to have two children beginning in 2016.

10 suspected Indonesian migrants drown off Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The bodies of 10 people believed to be Indonesian migrants were found washed ashore in Malaysia on Monday not far from a capsized boat, officials said. Two Indonesians were rescued. A Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency official said villagers discovered the bodies of six women and four men on a beach in southern Johor state. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said an

Indonesian man and woman were rescued. He said a rickety wooden boat was found not far from the beach. It may have been carrying about 40 people who were trying to enter Malaysia illegally and overturned due to strong waves and bad weather conditions, he said. A search for other victims was called off for the night but will resume Tuesday, he said.

Panel's report support letting Japan's emperor abdicate

TOKYO (AP)—A government panel studying a possible abdication of Japanese Emperor Akihito released an interim report Monday in favor of enacting special legislation that would apply to him but not to future monarchs. The panel is looking at how to accommodate Akihito's apparent abdication wish, which he expressed last August when he cited concerns that his age and health may start limiting his ability to fulfill his duties. Akihito turned 83 last month. The report paves the way for a parliamentary discussion. The panel's final report is expected in the spring, while the government is reportedly eyeing an abdication bill adopted in several months. The six-member panel, after interviewing constitutional and monarchy experts, compiled the report suggesting that an abdication under a one-time law would provide flexibility in adapting to each emperor and social environment in the future, while setting a permanent system covering all future emperors would be difficult.

Some experts have said the Imperial House Law, the supreme law overseeing Japan's monarchy, needs to be revised.



MISS UNIVERSE

Miss Russia Yuliana Korolkova, second left, is seated with Miss Ukraine Alena Spodynyuk, left, Miss Sierra Leone Hawa Kamara, second right, and Miss Singapore Cheryl Chou as they wait for their turn to pose with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during Miss Universe contestants' courtesy call at Malacanang Palace Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 in Manila, Philippines. A total of 86 contestants are vying for the beauty pageant title in the grand coronation on Jan. 30 to succeed Pia Wurtzbach of the Philippines.

World

Talks on Syria's civil war off to a rocky start

ASTANA, Kazakhstan

(AP)—Talks between the Syrian government and representatives of rebel factions got off to a rocky start Monday after their first face-to-face meeting in Kazakhstan that marked a major shift in the war's dynamics

and confirmed Russia's role as regional heavyweight.

The gathering in Astana, the Kazakh capital, is the latest in a long line of diplomatic initiatives aimed at ending the nearly 6-year-old civil war, which has killed hundreds of thou-

sands of people and displaced half of Syria's population.

The talks are focused on shoring up a shaky ceasefire declared Dec. 30, not on reaching a larger political settlement. Syria's bitter divide was on vivid display as

the delegates emerged from a closed, hour-long session marked by cold glances and sharp exchanges.

Syria's U.N. envoy Bashar Ja'afari said the opposition delegation represented "terrorist armed groups," and de-

nounced the opening address delivered by the chief rebel negotiator, calling it "provocative" and "insolent."

The head of the rebel delegation, Mohammad Alloush, had described Syrian President Bashar Assad's govern-

ment as a "terrorist" entity. He called for armed groups fighting alongside it, including the Lebanese Hezbollah, to be placed on a global list of terrorist organizations, according to a video leaked by opposition delegates.



WEATHER WARNING

Horses graze in a paddock with fog enveloping the trees behind them, near Leith Hill in Surrey, south west of London, Monday, Jan. 23, 2017. Thick fog has caused numerous flight delays and cancellations at London Heathrow and other area airports. The Met Office issued a severe weather warning for London and most of southern England as driving conditions were also hazardous and slippery. AP

Gambia's new president, still in Senegal, names female VP

BANJUL, Gambia (AP)—Gambia's new vice president will be a female leader of the opposition coalition that helped bring new President Adama Barrow to power, a presidential spokesman announced Monday, as regional troops continued security sweeps to prepare for Barrow's return to the country he now rules.

The appointment of Fatoumata Tambajang as vice president was announced at a news conference by coalition spokesman Halifa Sallah. He said the rest of Barrow's cabinet would be revealed Tuesday.

A former U.N. Development Program staffer, Tam-

bajang was instrumental in helping Gambia's opposition parties overcome their differences and unite against ousted President Yahya Jammeh, who came to power in a coup and ruled for 22 years.

Barrow remained in Senegal Monday, where he traveled more than a week ago when it was uncertain whether Jammeh would acknowledge defeat in the December election and step down.

After days of frantic mediation, and as a regional intervention force deployed to apply pressure, Jammeh finally agreed to leave, flying out late Saturday night. Mediators said

his destination was Equatorial Guinea, though that notoriously secretive country has yet to confirm Jammeh's arrival.

Barrow's return date has not been fixed, and this week's appointments are aimed at filling a void created by his absence.

The armed forces have pledged loyalty to him, though regional forces from the West African body known as ECOWAS on Monday continued to push Gambian soldiers out of the official residence, State House, in advance of Barrow's arrival. They also took over a Republican Guard barracks training center in Bakau, just outside Banjul.

White House opens door to cooperation with Russia in Syria

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Monday opened the door to cooperating with Russia "or anyone else" to combat the Islamic State group in Syria, suggesting it could reverse a previous refusal to coordinate military action with Moscow as long as it backs the Syrian government.

"I think if there's a way that we can combat ISIS with any country, whether it's Russia or anyone else, and we have a shared national interest in that, sure, we'll take it," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said.

Asked if the openness extended to working with Syrian President Bashar Assad, who

has been condemned internationally for killing civilians, Spicer said, "We're not going to get together with people under the guise of defeating ISIS if that's not truly their guise." He added, "So let's not take that too far."

Spicer also suggested that Trump already has told Defense Secretary James Mattis to review how he might change the U.S. approach to fighting the Islamic State.

"I think he has ordered it," Spicer said, adding that Trump would discuss the matter with Mattis during a visit to the Pentagon Friday.

"At that time, he will con-

tinue to have conversations about what he wants from them and the joint chiefs," he added, referring to the military service chiefs.

During the more than two years that President Barack Obama directed U.S. military action against IS in Syria, he resisted Russian overtures to coordinate military action. Obama believed Moscow was acting counter to U.S. interests by propping up Assad, whose government Obama called illegitimate. The Pentagon has maintained a hotline with the Russian military to deal with the narrower issue of avoiding air accidents in Syria.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's economic plans are nothing if not ambitious: Annual growth of 4 percent—or more. A diminished trade gap. The creation of 25 million jobs over 10 years, including the return of good-paying factory positions.

It all adds up to an immense challenge, one that Trump aims to achieve mostly by cutting taxes, loosening regulations, boosting infrastructure spending and renegotiating or withdrawing from trade deals. At the top of his agenda: Pulling out of the 12-nation Pacific trade agreement, a move Trump initiated Monday, his first full weekday in office. He has also said he will rewrite the North American Free Trade Agreement to better serve the United States.

Yet to come anywhere near his goals, economists say Trump would have to surmount at least a handful of major hurdles that have long defied solutions.

He may yet succeed. But he faces deep-rooted obstacles that have bedeviled presidents from both parties for years.

Among the challenges are these:

A SHIFT TOWARD AUTOMATION

Trump's goal of vastly expanding manufacturing would require at least the partial reversal of a decades-long trend toward a service-oriented economy and away from factory work. Former President Barack Obama sought to add 1 million manufacturing jobs in his second term but came up two-thirds short.

Even if Trump could return factory production to its heyday by toughening trade deals and threatening to slap tariffs on America's trading partners, a surge of new jobs wouldn't necessarily follow. The increased use of robots and automation has allowed factories to make more goods with fewer workers. Research shows that automation has been a bigger factor than trade in the loss of U.S. factory jobs.

The trend is spreading outside factory gates. Uber is experimenting with self-driving cars. Restaurant chains like Eatsa can now serve meals through an automated order-and-payment system. No cashiers or servers are needed.

"You cannot just slap tariffs on and hope that will bring back middle class jobs," says Daron Acemoglu, an economist at MIT. "The jobs that went to China would come back to robots rather than people."

A SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS

Jobs that can't be automated



Why Trump will find it hard to make American economy greater

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

President Donald Trump speaks while hosting a breakfast with business leaders in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Jan. 23, 2017. At left is Wendell P. Weeks, Chief Executive Officer of Corning, at right is Alex Gorsky Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Johnson & Johnson. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

typically require education beyond high school. Yet not everyone can or wants to attend college. Many analysts say the economy needs better and more widely available post-high school education and training, whether through community colleges, vocational schools or boot camps offering technology training.

Such a boot camp is how Sharnie Ivery managed to move beyond the retail and sales jobs he'd held right after high school. In 2013, Ivery began a six-month computer coding boot camp at Flatiron School in New York through which he obtained internships. Last year, he began working as a software developer at Spotify, the music streaming service. "There weren't many opportunities for a career in technology" without training and experience, Ivery, 24, said.

Last year, the Obama administration opened some financial aid programs to Flatiron and other boot camps. But such efforts remain in an experimental phase, and any widespread successes from those programs are likely years away.

A lack of technological skills isn't an issue only for the tech industry itself. Modern manufacturing work increasingly requires high-tech know-how requiring some education or training beyond high school. Since the economic recovery began in 2009, only 12 percent of manufacturing jobs have gone

to workers with no more than a high school degree, according to research by Georgetown University's Center for Education and the Workforce.

SLUGGISH WORKER PRODUCTIVITY

In the past decade, the growth of American workers' productivity—the amount they produce per hour worked—has slumped to roughly half its long-term average.

That slowdown has imposed a dead weight on the economy. When employees become less efficient, it slows economic growth, and companies can't raise pay without boosting prices. A faster expansion needs a combination of more people working and more efficient workers.

Trump's proposals might help somewhat. He favors expanded tax breaks for companies that invest in new machinery and equipment, which typically make workers more productive. And he's vowed to build more roads, tunnels and other infrastructure, which can save on shipping and commuting costs.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the conservative American Action Forum, says Trump's push to loosen regulations might also lead to more startup companies, which could prod established businesses to become more efficient.

Still, many economists, like Robert Gordon of Northwestern University, argue that to-

day's innovations—in mobile communications and biotechnology, for example—are not transformative enough to fuel the explosive productivity growth that resulted from inventions like the automobile, telephone and computer.

INCOME INEQUALITY

Economic growth since the recession ended has been both slow and uneven: It's benefited wealthier Americans far more than low- and middle-income households. Trump's nominee for Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, noted this concern at a confirmation hearing last week: "The average American worker has gotten nowhere," he said.

The tepid gains for low- and middle-income families have slowed the economy because those groups typically spend more of their income than do affluent households, and consumer spending is the economy's primary fuel. Against that backdrop, Trump's goal of 4 percent annual economic growth—a formidable one under any circumstances—might be next to impossible.

Mnuchin said the administration's proposals to cut taxes for individuals and businesses would shore up families' finances and encourage companies to hire more. Yet America's wealth gap has widened even as previous presidents have cut individual taxes.

And there's no way to know how companies would use their

tax cuts. Many large companies return profits to shareholders by boosting dividend payments and share buybacks, rather than by expanding investment and raising employee pay.

A SLOW-GROWING WORKFORCE

Trump has pledged to add 25 million jobs over the next decade. But with fewer people looking for work now than just a few years ago, it's unclear where all those extra workers would come from.

The president's pledge will run up against a long-standing trend: A decline in the proportion of Americans either working or seeking work. That's largely a reflection of an aging population. Roughly 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 every day, and many retire. The Congressional Budget Office forecasts that the proportion of Americans working or looking for work will keep dropping to 61.5 percent by the end of 2020.

Mark Lashinske of Tempe, Arizona-based Modern Industries, which makes machine tools, says he's struggling to fill 14 machinists' positions. He blames the steady loss of manufacturing jobs since 1980 for discouraging an entire generation from factory work. His company is expanding its efforts to find younger job applicants.

The company has established an internship program and is working with a non-profit group to encourage

disadvantaged high school students to consider manufacturing careers.

"We've been looking for quite a while," he says. "We have such a shortage."

Most economists argue that encouraging more legal immigration could help counter an otherwise slow-growing workforce and might help accelerate economic growth. Yet Trump campaigned on tightening immigration restrictions.

"In the absence of immigration, we shrink the size of our population and our economy and our global influence," Holtz-Eakin says.

STRONG DOLLAR

Through renegotiating treaties like NAFTA and pushing companies to keep more jobs at home, Trump hopes to reduce—or even eliminate—the trade deficit, a measure of how much more America imports than exports. The U.S. has run trade deficits since 1975.

Yet if Trump's policies accelerate growth, the Federal Reserve would be more likely to raise the short-term interest rate it controls to keep inflation in check. Faster growth and higher rates, in turn, would attract more investors to the dollar, raising its value compared with other currencies.

The catch? A stronger dollar makes U.S. exports costlier and imports cheaper—a recipe for an even wider trade deficit and a headwind for growth.

Good Housekeeping

Cheap tricks make for budget-friendly laundry room redo

YOUR PLACE

How to rid your floor of stuck-on rubber rug padding

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Question: My parents have a 9-foot-by-12-foot area rug, which is in excellent condition, in their bedroom.

Under the rug is green foam-rubber padding that has become as hard as a rock over the years and has stuck to the hardwood flooring like paint.

I have tried a plastic scraper with no luck. I used a 2-inch-wide metal scraper that removes the rubber but is time-consuming.

I have not scratched or marred the hardwood flooring. Is there an easier method?

Answer: As strange as it seems, when I received your question, I took a look under our living room rug to check the condition of the padding there. Though some of it had crumbled, it wasn't sticking to the floor.

Checking on the internet with the usual grain of salt, I discovered that the metal-blade scraper was the most-touted method of removal without scratching, even though it took one woman 26 hours.

She didn't say whether this was 26 hours at once without a break, or 26 hours over a period of months or years.

Angie's List, which said it asked professionals, recom-

mended using such solvents as paint thinner or soapy water to loosen the glued padding and then scraping or sanding it off.

Frankly, given indoor air-quality issues, I'd go with the soapy water, but not a lot, because you might cause the floor to warp.

There were some YouTube videos available showing a variety of ways to remove glued-on padding, but most involved projects that required removal before a new floor was installed, so the condition of the hardwood floor underneath was not an issue.

These are all sources available to you by Googling, but here's my advice:

A job worth doing is one that's worth doing well. If the metal scraper is working, no matter how time-consuming it is, go with it.

As far as using paint thinner or soapy water, one requires proper ventilation, including a mask, and the right clothing for protection.

If the job is important to you, and you are pressed for time, it might be best to contact a professional to do it.

Money well-spent.

Contact Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.

COMFORT FOOD

Teriyaki Chicken and Rice

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Run your errands in the morning and come home to a noon meal in the crockpot that will beat any fast-food stop you could have made.

1 (14-ounce) can Swanson Lower Sodium Fat Free Chicken Broth

1/2 cup (5 ounces) bottled teriyaki sauce

1 tablespoon prepared yellow mustard

1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes

16 ounces skinned and boned uncooked chicken breast, cut into 36 pieces

3 cups frozen broccoli, carrot and water chestnut blend, thawed

1 1/3 cups uncooked in-

stant rice

1. Spray a slow-cooker container with olive oil-flavored cooking spray. In prepared container, combine chicken broth, teriyaki sauce, yellow mustard and parsley flakes. Stir in chicken pieces. Add vegetable blend and uncooked rice. Mix well to combine.

2. Cover and cook on LOW for 4 hours. Mix well before serving. Serves 6 (1 1/3 cups).

TIP: Thaw frozen vegetable blend by rinsing in a colander under hot water for one minute.

* Each serving equals: 210 calories, 2g fat, 20g protein, 28g carbs, 363mg sodium, 35mg calcium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Vegetable; Carb Choices: 2.

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

I love a project.

I also love saving money. Put the two together, and the combination is irresistible.

I'm the queen of cheap room makeovers, and my latest undertaking is no exception. I gave my laundry/mud room an overhaul this fall, and it didn't cost me an arm or a leg.

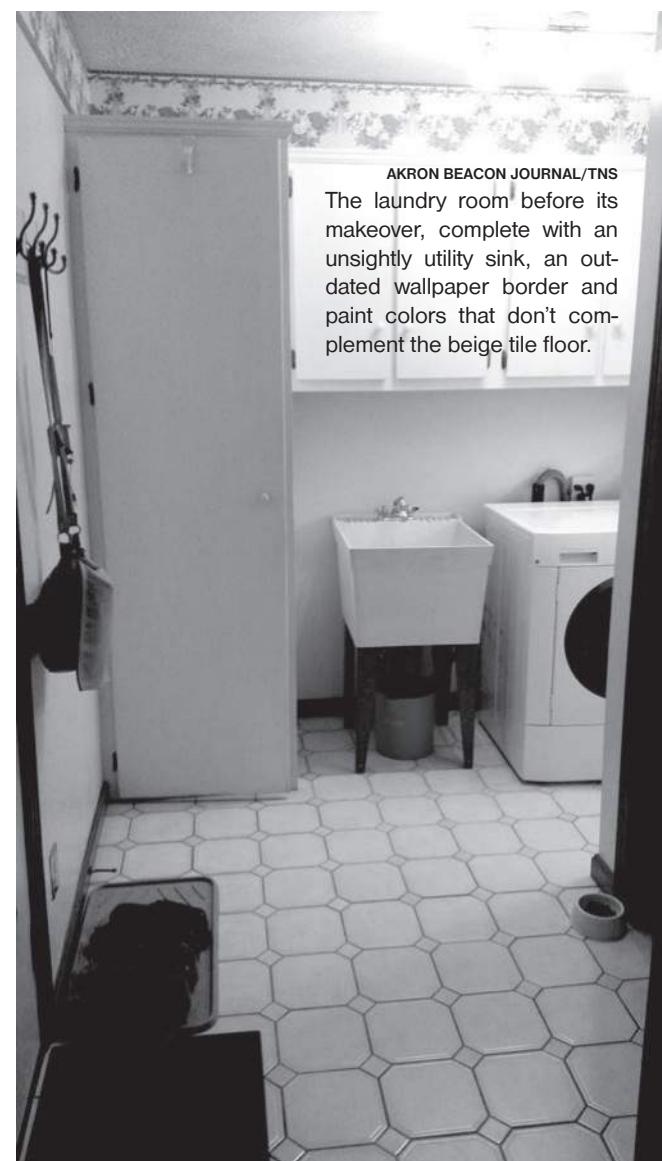
A little skin off a finger or two, maybe, but no limbs.

Mostly this was a paint—everything—except—the floor kind of project, although I did splurge on a laundry vanity to replace an unsightly utility sink. (What's a laundry vanity, you ask? It's like a bathroom vanity, but with a deep laundry sink. Who knew such a thing existed?)

Besides lots of paint, though, I also used a few cheats and creative solutions in the process. So I thought I'd pass those along.

■ My laundry room had painted cabinets that were solid but boring, with flat doors just crying out for a little interest. After repainting them, I framed the doors with 1 {—inch-wide lattice molding from Lowe's, which I painted the same color and adhered with construction adhesive. Voila! Shaker-style cabinets.

■ I was going to spring for an Ikea butcher-block countertop for over my front-loading washer and dryer, but then it hit me: My favorite Swedish home store also sells tabletops, and they're closer to the size I needed. I bought a Gerton butcher-block tabletop, removed the metal braces from the underside and had a helpful friend with a table saw



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/TNS

The laundry room before its makeover, complete with an unsightly utility sink, an outdated wallpaper border and paint colors that don't complement the beige tile floor.

trim it to fit.

■ I wanted my new countertop to be easily removable in case the washer or dryer needed repairing, so I engaged in a good deal of mental wrestling over how to support it. Then I took the easy way out: I simply stuck some plastic door bumpers on the underside of the countertop and laid it right on top of the appliances. And you know what? It works just fine. The bumpers keep the countertop in place

and prevent it from rattling, even during the spin cycle.

■ Ikea came to the rescue on another problem, how to hide the ugly drain hose and electrical outlet that stick up behind my washing machine. I pondered all sorts of solutions, from having the hose and outlet relocated to building a removable box to cover them. Then, during my Ikea trip, I spotted some great fake plants in little galvanized buckets for a few bucks apiece. I just set

the plants on top of the washer, and now you don't even notice the eyesores behind them.

A laundry basket hides another receptacle behind the dryer and gives me a place to collect dirty kitchen towels and cloth napkins.

■ My cabinets stop short of the ceiling, so I topped them with storage baskets from Michaels to take advantage of the unused space and add a little decorative interest. The baskets hold things like china and glassware I use infrequently, so that freed cupboard space for items I use more often.

■ Coat hooks on one wall and a temporary over—the door hanger give me places to hang clean laundry, but I needed a place to keep hangers within easy reach. An inexpensive spring tension rod mounted inside the laundry vanity does the trick. I just hang the hangers on the rod and close the vanity doors to keep them out of sight when I don't need them.

■ The laundry room has a door that leads to my garage, a plain steel fire door with no architectural interest whatsoever. I thought it was a perfect place to mount a chalkboard so we could jot reminders we'd see on the way out the door, but I didn't want to make that a permanent feature. So I painted a rectangle onto the door with chalkboard paint, made a frame out of decorative molding and attached the frame to the door with 3M Command hanging strips removable hook—and-loop fasteners meant for mounting picture frames. Now if I get tired of the chalkboard, I can just pop off the frame, peel off the fasteners and repaint the door.

Five design trends for wood floors

By MARION J. LOUGHEED
ANGIE'S LIST

Wood flooring is a classic look for any home, but there are trends to consider when installing a new floor or refinishing an existing one:

1. Wide floor boards

If you have smaller rooms, consider the trend toward wider planks, which create the illusion of more space. While wide boards can work in any room, the look is especially nice for cozier rooms.

2. Earth-friendly wood

Sustainable products continue to be popular, including bamboo and cork. Bear in mind that these flooring materials aren't as tough as

hardwood, and will need different maintenance and care. They may however, give your rooms a fresh, natural appeal.

For more information about bamboo and other flooring options, see the Angie's List Guide to Wood Floor Alternatives.

The popularity of exotic woods has contributed to global deforestation. An alternative is to have floors made of wood reclaimed from old buildings or other sources. In the case of oak and some other hardwoods, reclaimed wood may make a better floor, since wood in older buildings often came from heartwood.

3. Color choice

Darker tones, such as deep cherry and mahogany, remain

popular, and help create a sense of opulence and grandeur associated with classic comfort. Lighter colors contribute to a more casual, natural look. Ask your flooring professional to show you the latest options in wood floor color.

4. Handscraped hardwood

At one time, wood floorboards routinely bore the marks of having been scraped by tools to create as smooth a finish as possible. Today, handscraped and distressed floors are becoming popular, and there are a variety of ways to achieve the look, which can add cost.

5. Prefinished flooring

Some wood flooring now comes prefinished with a clear finish of tiny metal crystals that create a solid, protective layer. Such prefinishing allows floors to be quickly ready for foot traffic after installation.

For more information about wood floors, see the Angie's List Guide to Hardwood Flooring. And when considering a new floor or having an existing one refinished, check Angie's List for local consumer reviews on wood flooring professionals, who are among more than 550 service providers on the List.

Marion J. Lougheed is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

Life & Style

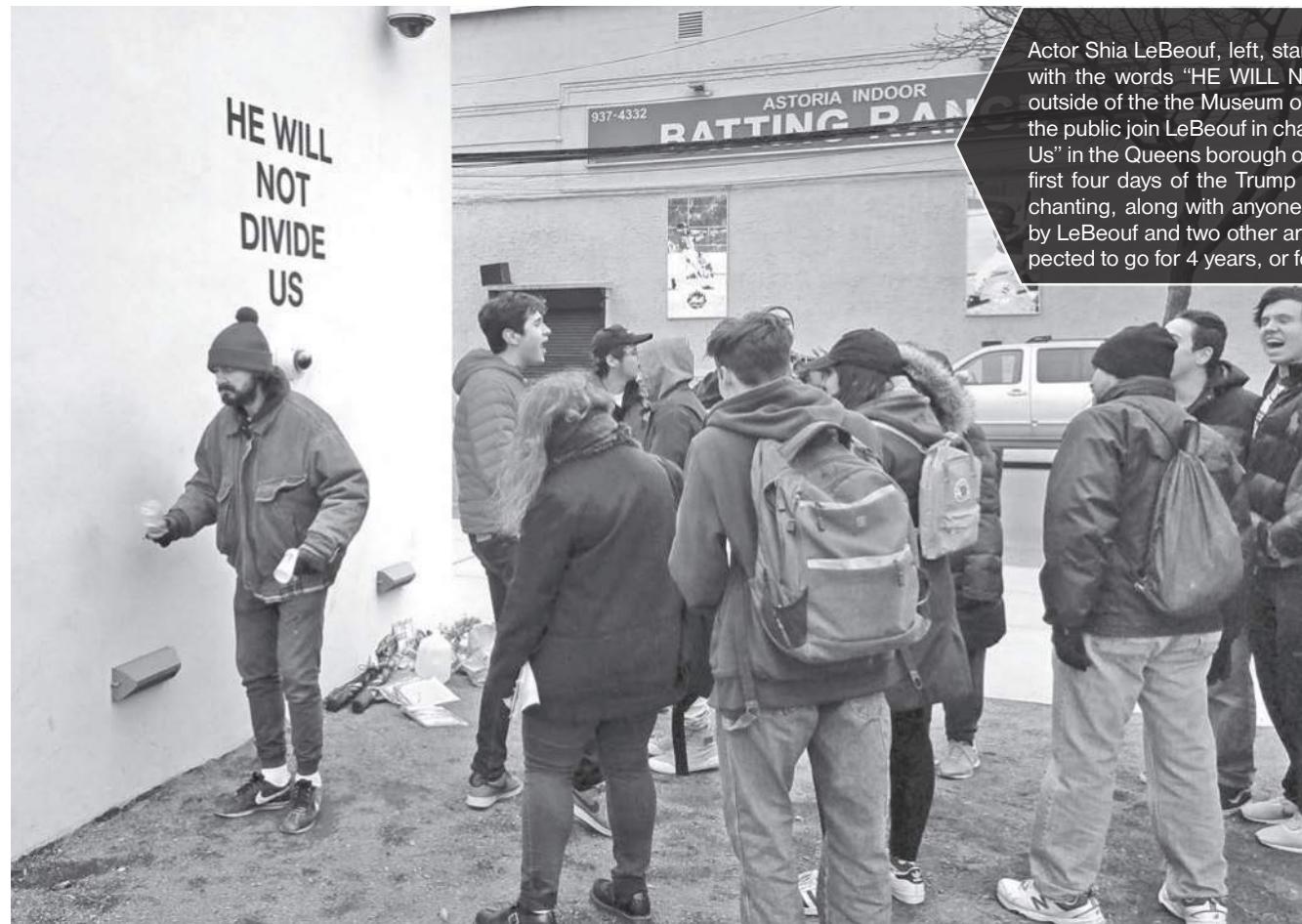
LaBeouf-led livestream says 'He Will Not Divide Us'

NEW YORK (AP) — Shia LaBeouf wants you to know: "He will not divide us."

For the first few days of Donald Trump's presidency, the actor has been repeating that sentence into a live camera mounted on a wall outside a New York City museum, usually with a backdrop of everyday New Yorkers chanting and singing along.

The livestream from outside the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens is for a participatory public art project LaBeouf and two collaborators intend to have running for the duration of Trump's presidency.

The camera went live the morning of the inauguration, along with a website inviting the public to show up and repeat the phrase, "He will not divide us," any time of the



Actor Shia LaBeouf, left, stands in front of a live-stream camera with the words "HE WILL NOT DIVIDE US" posted on a wall outside of the Museum of the Moving Image as members of the public join LeBeouf in chanting the words "He will Not Divide Us" in the Queens borough of New York. LaBeouf has spent the first four days of the Trump presidency swaying, dancing and chanting, along with anyone who wants to join in. The project by LeBeouf and two other artists opened on Jan. 20 and is expected to go for 4 years, or for "the duration of the presidency." AP

South Dakota museum awarded legal ownership of Presley guitar

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP)—A federal judge ruled Monday that a South Dakota museum is the legal owner of a guitar played by Elvis Presley.

The Martin D-35 guitar has been on display at the National Music Museum in Vermillion since 2013. It had been donated by collector and musician Robert Johnson (not the legendary blues artist). But months later, Tennessee-based collector Larry Moss contacted the museum saying he was the rightful owner and the donor was not in a position to give away the guitar.

The National Music Mu-

seum asked a judge in July 2014 to declare it the legal owner of the guitar.

A judge ruled Monday that Moss never owned the title, never possessed the guitar and never paid for it, and didn't take legal action during his three-year wait for the instrument. The museum received the guitar's title in 2013 and is the legal owner, the court found.

Presley played the guitar during his 1977 tour and gave it to a fan in St. Petersburg, Florida, when it was damaged. Presley died six months later.

day or night.

The scene in front of the livecam has ranged from lively—with scores of young people dancing and clapping—to lonely late at night.

LeBeouf has been a frequent, though not constant presence, wearing the same blue jacket and red hat.

"Trying to keep the conversation going. Trying to keep the fire stoked," he said Monday after agreeing to be interviewed by an Associated Press reporter, but only in front of the livestream camera. He interspersed responses to interview questions with repetitions of the chant.

The site is around the corner from a New York City performing arts high school and a couple of students were there Monday, singing into the camera. On Inauguration Day, actor Jaden Smith, the son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, led the crowd reciting the chant.

At off hours, the livestream has captured puzzled dog walkers checking out the camera up close, people showing up to play music, a man and woman delivering the message and then kissing and quiet debates between visitors about what it all means. People were out in heavy rain chanting Monday night.

Technically, the project from LaBeouf and his performance art partners Nasja Säde Rönkkö and Luke Turner isn't about opposition to Trump.

The project website says the meaning of the mantra "He will not divide us" should be "guided by the spirit of each individual participant."

"We're anti-division out here. Everyone's invited," LaBeouf said, rocking back and forth. "I'm just saying, 'Be nice to each other.'"

Tax-exempt public charities, like the museum, are prohibited from engaging in partisan political activity.

'SNL' writer suspended for tweet about Barron Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—A "Saturday Night Live" writer has been suspended indefinitely after tweeting a poorly received joke about Donald Trump's 10-year-old youngest son, Barron.

A person familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly told The Associated Press that Katie Rich was suspended immediately after writing an offensive tweet about the child. An outcry on social media followed, with many calling for a boycott of the TV show.

Rich later deleted the tweet, deactivated her account but

then reactivated it Monday, saying she wanted to "sincerely apologize" for the "insensitive" tweet and "deeply regret" her actions.

NBC had no comment.

Barron found support from Chelsea Clinton, with the former first daughter saying he "deserves the chance every child does—to be a kid."

This isn't the first time "SNL" has gotten in trouble for joking about the president's children. In 1993, then-cast member Mike Myers had to write an apology letter to the Clintons after a skit that mocked Chelsea Clinton.

Minnesota author Kelly Barnhill wins Newbery Medal

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Before winning the most prestigious prize in children's literature, Kelly Barnhill took a little detour.

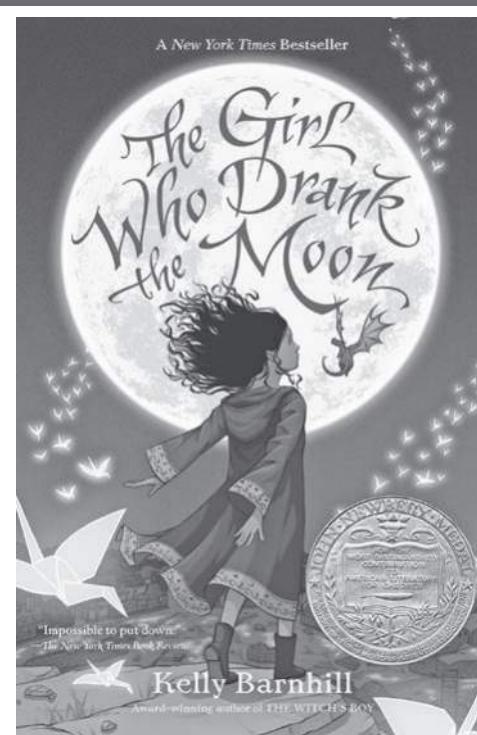
Barnhill, named Monday as this year's winner of the John Newbery Medal for her fantasy novel "The Girl Who Drank the Moon," started writing children's stories in her late 20s—after two kids and a yearslong hiatus from the craft she studied as an undergraduate.

"I was doing all the wacky stuff that early 20s people did," Barnhill said in a telephone interview. "I worked for the National Park Service, I got trained as a volunteer firefighter, I went to Florida for a little while, I fell in love, I had my first baby when I was 25 and moved back to Minnesota, got my teaching license and was really not writing at all during that time."

She said she wasn't "drawn back to the page" until after she had her second baby girl and began making a dent in a stack of library books, starting with "The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse" by Louise Erdrich.

"That book unlocked something in me and I've been writing ever since," she said.

Barnhill started with short stories,



This undated photo provided by Algonquin Young Readers shows the book cover for the children's book titled "The Girl Who Drank the Moon," by Kelly Barnhill, of Minneapolis.

which eventually turned into children's novels, including the coming-of-age tale "The Girl Who Drank the Moon" and her other critically acclaimed book "The

"Witch's Boy." Most of her stories start with a sticky conundrum or some sort of fundamental question, she said.

"The Girl Who Drank the Moon" started with Barnhill examining how narratives can be manipulated and true stories can be changed into falsehoods. The book is set in a town where the villagers sacrifice a newborn baby each year to a witch because they fear her. But the witch is secretly good and brings those babies to loving families in a town on the other side of the woods.

"This notion of rumor spreading and of getting the wrong idea about a person," she said, "that's like real stuff for these kids, that's what their life is like right now."

These days, the mother of three teaches in Minneapolis for COMPAS, a statewide nonprofit arts education organization. The Newbery award comes after her book was a New York Times bestseller; movie rights were sold in the fall to Fox Animation.

Barnhill said the most rewarding part of being a children's author is discussing the book with kids.

"It's particularly fun when I go someplace where the kids have already read the book. It's amazing how deep of thinkers they are," she said.

Woody Harrelson jokes about new role in Star Wars spinoff

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Woody Harrelson recently confirmed he's playing Han Solo's mentor in the next "Star Wars" movie, but the actor jokes about his own ability to lead.

"I wouldn't choose me," the actor shrugged and then laughed at the premiere of "Wilson" at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Harrelson will play Garri Shrike. He also said the movie, which doesn't yet

have a title, begins shooting in March.

It also stars Aiden Ehrenreich as Han Solo. Donald Glover will play Lando Calrissian and Emilia Clarke has been cast as well but in an unknown role. The movie is scheduled to come out in May 2018.

As for "Wilson," it's adapted from a graphic novel of the same name about a curmudgeon, played by Harrelson, who reconnects with his long lost ex-wife, played by Laura

Dern, and discovers they have a daughter he didn't know about.

Dern also walked "Wilson's" red carpet on Sunday; a day earlier, she participated in the Women's March in Park City.

"I feel hopeful with the daily reminder that we peacefully protest, that we believe in our own internal revolution, that we honor our constitution and human rights which are women's rights and civil rights," she said.



AP

Woody Harrelson, a cast member in "Wilson," is interviewed at the premiere of the film at the Eccles Theatre during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, in Park City, Utah.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Gingrich: Madonna should be arrested for White House remark

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich says Madonna "ought to be arrested" for telling the crowd at the women's rights march in Washington that she's "thought an awful lot about blowing up the White House." During an interview on "Fox & Friends" on Monday, Gingrich said Madonna is part of "an emerging left-wing fascism." In a statement Sunday on Instagram, Madonna said she was trying to express there are two ways to respond to Donald Trump's election: with hope or with outrage. She said she hopes to effect change "with love." Gingrich says Madonna changed her tune because "she now understands she's at risk." Madonna's representative wasn't immediately available to respond to Gingrich's remarks.

'Batman v Superman,' 'Zoolander 2' lead

Razzie nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—The much-derided superhero clash "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" and the far-too-late comedy sequel "Zoolander 2" are the leading nominees for the 37th annual Razzie Awards. "Zoolander 2" drew nine nods and "Batman v Superman" landed eight in nominations announced Monday for the worst films and performances of 2016. Both are up for worst picture, along with "Gods of Egypt," "Independence Day: Resurgence," "Dirty Grandpa" and the political documentary "Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party." Many nominees are typically acclaimed performers, including Robert De Niro ("Dirty Grandpa"), Naomi Watts ("Divergent Series: Allegiant" and "Shut-In"), Kristen Wiig ("Zoolander"), Johnny Depp ("Alice Through the Looking Glass"), Will Ferrell ("Zoolander 2"), Ben Affleck ("Batman v Superman") and Julia Roberts ("Mother's Day").

"Winners" will be announced Feb. 25.

'The Last Jedi' revealed as title for 'Star Wars' VIII

NEW YORK (AP)—"Star Wars: Episode VIII" finally has a title: "The Last Jedi."

The Walt Disney Co. announced the title for the next chapter in the Skywalker saga on Monday. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" will be released Dec. 15. Speculation over just who the last Jedi is immediately ran rampant on social media. "The Force Awakens" chronicled Daisy Ridley's Rey discovering her powers with the Force, but ended ominously with a withdrawn Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) on a remote island. If there's to be just one Jedi left, Luke's days could be numbered. In an interview Monday at the Sundance Film Festival, Mark Hamill said he liked that the title was "straightforward" and "minimalist." "They told us that when we were making the movie and

I said don't tell me these things. I talk in my sleep," said Hamill. "They have us so jacked up with paranoia over leaks." Writer-director Rian Johnson has previously said "Episode VIII" will start right where "The Force Awakens" left off.

Fox cutting ties with Stacey Dash, George Will, 2 others

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel is cutting ties with some of its paid contributors, including former "Clueless" actress Stacey Dash and veteran conservative columnist George Will. The network said Monday that it had also declined to renew the contracts of political strategist Ed Rollins and columnist Cal Thomas. Dash hasn't appeared on Fox since September. She attracted a lot of attention in a short time, investigating a feud with BET by saying the network promotes segregation and being suspended for using a profanity on-air to refer to former

President Barack Obama's views on terrorism. All of the commentators were hired when Roger Ailes led Fox. The former chairman left Fox left summer amid accusations of sexual harassment, which he has denied.

A song goes viral after Women's March on Washington

A song by a Los Angeles singer-songwriter that was performed by a flash mob of women in pink, pointy-eared hats at the Women's March on Washington is being heralded as the anthem of the movement. MILCK, whose real name is Connie Lim, led some two dozen singers Saturday in her song "Quiet," which is about overcoming physical and sexual abuse. The lyrics include the lines, "A one-woman riot/Oh, I can't keep quiet." Film director Alma Har'el wrote on Facebook that she chanced upon the singers and captured footage of them performing. As of Monday afternoon,

her clip had been seen more than 9 million times. The song is part of a social media campaign for #ICantKeep-Quiet, which hopes to raise awareness against abuse of women and minorities. (AP)

Alec Baldwin to host 'SNL' for record-setting 17th time

NEW YORK (AP)—At the dawn of the Donald Trump administration, "Saturday Night Live's" own Trump—Alec Baldwin—will be back as the show's guest host for the 17th time. The NBC show said Monday that Baldwin will host the Feb. 11 show. Baldwin, who has been portraying Trump on a semi-regular basis this season, has hosted the venerable comedy show more times than any other person. SNL said that actress Kristen Stewart will debut as a host on the Feb. 4 show. Alessia Cara will be the musical guest on Stewart's show, with Ed Sheeran performing on Baldwin's show.

Wife wonders if counseling will help husband mature

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a hard time deciding if I should forgive my husband or tell him enough is enough. In the year since our wedding, he became infatuated with one of my bridesmaids to the point of telling her—and me—that he loved her. He also flirted with women online, lied to my face about it, and asked for and received nude pictures from a "friend" and an ex.

We have been in counseling for about a month now, but we're moving soon, and I'm not sure I want to move with him, even though he now says he wants to fix things. We have a small child together, which affects my decision. What should I do?

NOT SURE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR NOT SURE: It appears that the man you married was not mature enough to make that commitment. That the two of you are now in counseling and he wants to make things work is hopeful. However, considering what has been going on for the past year, I can understand your serious doubts. Because you already have a counselor helping you to work on your marriage, I think you should take your question to—and your cues from—the person with whom you are working.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am going to be a great-grandmother soon,

and I'm very excited about it. I didn't think I would live to experience this great joy. My beautiful granddaughter is not married to the baby's father, but is a mature and loving person.

Although her immediate family is supportive, the extended family is not and refuses to acknowledge it. My sisters will call me and talk about anything and everything except my granddaughter and the baby that is coming. I don't know what to make of their conduct. I feel like hanging up on them, or telling them off and being done with them.

They are never going to experience being great-grandmothers themselves. Could they be jealous or angry that this happened? Please tell me how to handle it. Their health isn't good, so if I cut them off, it could be forever.

PERPLEXED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your sisters could be jealous or angry, as you suspect. They could also be judgmental and trying to "punish" your granddaughter for being pregnant and unwed by ignoring her.

I don't blame you for feeling angry, and possibly hurt, for the way they are behaving. You're entitled. But the question you must answer for yourself is, would you be better off with or without those "sweethearts" in your life? Only you can answer that one.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



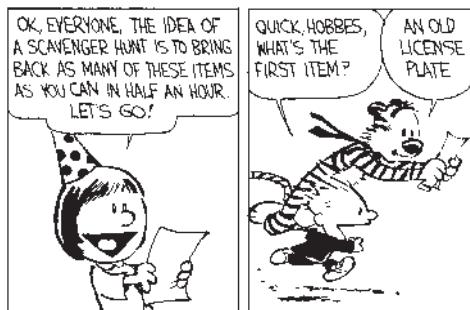
■ ■ ■
DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for nine months, and for the first time, at 28, I can say I know what love is. Marriage is in the future, which brings me to my question. How and when do I tell him I was adopted?

EAST COAST GIRL

DEAR EAST COAST GIRL: Frankly, I'm surprised this hasn't already been discussed as part of your getting to know each other. You are acting like having been adopted is some kind of guilty secret, and it's not. Tell your boyfriend in a quiet environment in which you can discuss it, preferably when you're having dinner and when you both feel relaxed and comfortable, so you can answer any questions he may ask you.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

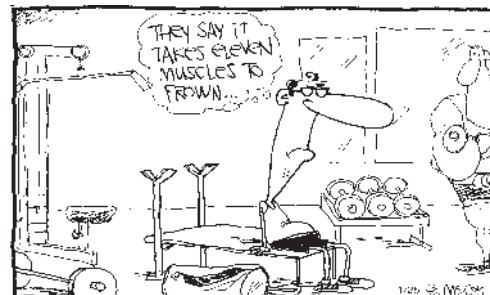


Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33	Hit hard	56	Art Deco master	9	Valentine message
1 Poet Teasdale	35	Forum wear	57	Verifiable	10	Zilch
5 Moving vehicle	36	Words of denial	58	Ultimate	11	Crazy
8 Twain hero	38	Drone	59	Burden	16	Guffaws
12 Opposite of "fer"	40	"Yecch!"	DOWN	20	Recede	
13 Poem of praise	41	Green land	1	Polio vaccine discoverer	23	Bristle
14 Baseball's Moises	43	Calendar box	2	Water, to Juan	24	Carnival city
15 Comment to a lottery winner	45	Door-way	3	Opulent	25	"Please go first"
17 "Cut it out!"	47	"The — Woman"	4	Bracelet site	27	Unh-unh"
18 Coffee-flavored liqueur	51	Lindsay Wagner	5	Jupiter probe	29	Omelet need
19 Keanu of "Speed"	52	TV show)	6	Commo-tion	30	Fan's cry
21 Heart chart (Abbr.)	54	"Merci"	7	Prefix	32	Parrot
22 Bas-soon's kin	55	Flue buildup	8	End-of-film direction	34	Spa treatment
23 Coach Parseghian	Granola	morsel	37	Historic time	39	Primary
26 Capitol Hill VIP			39	Primary	42	Pop star John
28 eBay customer			40	44	44	Hayseed
31 Laptop connection			45	History	45	History
			46	— about (roughly)	46	— about (roughly)
			48	Song-writer	48	Song-writer
			49	Laura	49	Greek vowel
			50	Prompted	50	Prompted
			53	Chapeau	53	Chapeau

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, 36; Mia Kirshner, 42; Ana Ortiz, 46; Jennifer Lewis, 60.

Happy Birthday: Weigh each move you make carefully and consider how much time and effort it will take to carry out. Making wise choices will help you avoid being a jack-of-all trades and master of none. Stay focused and make a point to focus on what matters most to you. A steady pace of progress should be your priority. Your numbers are 5, 13, 22, 25, 34, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful and don't make assumptions. Wait until you are given a true picture of what's actually happening. Taking on too much under false pretenses will be costly in the end. Gauge your time and use your talents wisely. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't settle for substitutes. Speak your mind and push until you get your way. Your stubbornness will pay off if you offer incentives to those standing in your way. A kind gesture will go a long way. Romance is encouraged. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your thirst for knowledge will help to balance out your financial goals. Take a course that will enable you to apply for positions that have been out of reach in the past. Refuse to let anyone lower your self-esteem. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Discuss your plans and make arrangements that include someone you enjoy spending time with. Business and personal trips will spark an interest in making subtle lifestyle changes. Try

to spend more time doing the things you enjoy doing most. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have added discipline that will help you gather information and expand your interests. Take care of any responsibilities you've been given and move on to the things you enjoy doing most. Protect against minor injury or illness. ☀

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get together with old friends or colleagues. The information you receive will encourage you to change how you live and what you do for work. Plot a course and bring about the changes necessary to reach your goals. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let past experiences guide you. Someone will try to limit or interfere with your plans. Don't back down when the only thing that will help you gain respect is the truth. Make love and romance a priority. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have the right idea, but will need to harness your talents and use them wisely to maximize your chances of advancement. Keep an open mind when discussing secrets or if you choose to get involved in other people's business. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Size up a situation that is bothering you or a cause you believe needs help and do your best to make a difference. Don't worry about the stubbornness of others. Do your thing and you will break through any barriers you face. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are astute, goal-oriented and insightful. You are innovative and trendy.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com. Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	6			5	2		
1		8	4		7		
2					1		
	3				4		
6					2		
	7				9		
5				3			
4	2	9	5	3	6	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	8	5	9	4	7	6	2
6	7	5	2	8	3	9	4	1
9	2	4	7	1	6	8	3	5
7	9	6	3	5	2	1	8	4
5	3	1	8	4	9	2	7	6
4	8	2	1	6	7	5	9	3
2	6	7	9	3	1	4	5	8
8	4	9	6	2	5	3	1	7
1	5	3	4	7	8	6	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY (FIILM)

Solution: 9 letters

C	N	A	I	S	S	A	C	B	A	I	L	D	D	F
O	H	T	I	S	C	H	I	R	R	U	T	E	I	S
O	E	O	H	E	L	D	A	T	N	H	S	G	E	H
K	N	N	D	A	L	E	Z	A	B	T	H	N	G	I
Y	R	C	O	R	J	B	T	S	T	O	L	O	P	
D	Y	I	B	S	N	E	W	E	N	Q	I	A	N	G
U	T	N	E	R	D	H	R	N	R	Y	N	R	M	A
T	I	N	N	E	I	O	O	R	E	N	A	E	I	M
E	C	E	O	T	F	Z	N	S	E	L	L	N	K	H
D	I	R	A	O	F	R	A	N	L	G	A	E	K	T

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Airport Area
Reward 484-3480

WHATZIT Solution:
Quicksilver

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- (4) ACCOUNTANT
- (1) CATERING COORDINATOR
- (8) BAKER
- (7) COOK

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office in Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road)

Paradise Salon

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Beautician

Must be able to perform beauty care, hair and make-up, as well as pedicure and manicure.

For more information, please call 233-2445

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ONSITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (Full-time)

Summary

The onsite construction manager plans, directs and coordinates activities pertaining to the construction, renovation and maintenance of an assigned group of commercial and residential properties in accordance with company policies.

Qualifications and Experience

- You are able to plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate all phases of construction at the project sites.
- Your oral and written communication are excellent, thorough and attentive to details, able to prioritize and multitask, proactive and deadline-oriented.
- You are able to operate heavy equipment, machines, and hand held tools.
- You have the ability to read and understand work orders, safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.
- You must be able to occasionally lift and move up to 50 pounds or more.

Responsibilities

- Assists the property management team with conducting property inspections.
- Coordinates with the property management team to ensure that the property complies with the codes and regulations of agencies such as insurance carrier and fire protection.
- Meets with existing building maintenance staff to ensure building codes are met, to perform a detailed inspection of property and to secure building historical plans.
- Evaluates specifications for plan procedures, start and completion dates, and staffing requirements for each phase of the construction project. Estimates the scope of work and obtains a minimum of three bids for comparison and completion of each job.
- Directs subcontractors and staff engaged in planning and executing work procedures.
- Inspects property and units under construction on a regular basis to ensure the work conforms to specifications, schedule and initiates any repair or replacement needs and/or adjustment of working procedures. Regularly communicates with the project team regarding unit and property status.
- Coordinates with the property management team regarding activities of maintenance and housekeeping staff.
- Provides simple estimates for the costs of materials and staffing for various construction and/or renovation projects.
- Reviews all invoices/purchase orders pertaining to the construction projects and submits all approved bills to the accounting department for processing and payment.
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Waiters for the win: Heat stun Warriors, 105-102



MIAMI (AP)—Dion Waiters went from air ball to game-winner.

Waiters made a 3-pointer with 0.6 seconds left to cap his 33-point effort, and the Miami Heat beat Golden State 105-102 on Monday night to end the Warriors' seven-game winning streak.

It was the second straight game in which Waiters tied his career high, and this one came after a frantic final few minutes in which the Heat blew a 10-point lead—with a Waiters air ball of a 15-footer as part of that collapse. But he more than atoned with his last shot of the night, sending Miami to its biggest surprise of the season.

"He's not scared. He's not afraid," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He's fearless. He wants those moments as much as anybody."

Kevin Durant tied the game on a dunk with 11.7 seconds left. With no timeouts, Waiters walked the ball up the court, made a couple moves on Klay Thompson, and then connected from straightaway.

"I knew it was good," Waiters said. "He let me get to my shot."

Stephen Curry missed a 3-point try for the Warriors as time expired.

Goran Dragic scored 19 points for Miami (15-30), which finished a 4-0 homestand. Luke Babbitt added 11, and Hassan Whiteside had 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Durant scored 27, Thompson had 22 and Curry added 21 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Warriors (38-7).

"We get everybody's best shot," said Warriors coach Steve Kerr, who even with the loss clinched the right to coach the Western Conference in next month's All-Star Game. "Miami played great."

Waiters shot 13 for 20 from the floor, 6 for 8 from 3-point range.

"Those are tough shots that Dion made," Curry said. "He obviously played well, but we didn't do anything to help ourselves."

Miami was up 98-88 before the Warriors started rallying. Curry made a pair of free throws, Thompson hit a 3-pointer and Durant added another 3 as Golden State ran off eight straight points. Waiters answered with a 3 for the Heat, but Durant and Shaun Livingston both scored at the rim in the final minute as the Warriors closed to 101-100 with 21.4 seconds left.

Dragic made one of two free throws, and the Warriors set up a play where Durant went baseline for the tying score. But Waiters had the last make of the night.

"It's good to see guys in the



locker room feel good about beating a great basketball team," Spoelstra said.

Pelicans 124, Cavaliers 122

In New Orleans, Terrence Jones filled in brilliantly for injured All-Star Anthony Davis, scoring a season-high 36 points and grabbing 11 rebounds while powering New Orleans to the surprising victory.

Jrue Holiday added 33 points and 10 assists for the Pelicans, and Langston Galloway capped a 12-point night with a clean steal on LeBron James' drive in the final minute, preventing the Cavs from erasing a deficit they had trimmed from 22 late in the first half to three with 1:32 left

in the game.

Kyrie Irving scoring 35 of his 49 points in the second half, but Cleveland fell to its fifth loss in seven games. James had 26 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, and Kevin Love scored 22 points.

Thunder 97, Jazz 95

In Salt Lake City, Russell Westbrook hit a pull-up jumper with 1.4 seconds left, helping Oklahoma City stop Utah's six-game win streak.

Westbrook took over down the stretch and scored 11 of the Thunder's final 13 points after going cold in the third quarter. He finished with 38 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his 22nd triple-double of the season.

Alec Burks missed the final

shot for the Jazz as time expired.

Victor Oladipo scored 18 for Oklahoma City.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 17 points.

Clippers 115, Hawks 105

In Atlanta, Austin Rivers scored 27 points and Jamal Crawford broke out of a shooting slump with 19, helping the Clippers to the road win.

Crawford had eight points in the fourth quarter, including a driving basket after Atlanta cut the Clippers' lead from 24 to five points.

Kent Bazemore led the Hawks with 25 points. Dennis Schroder had 21, and Dwight Howard added 16 points and

Miami Heat's Dion Waiters shoots a basket in the final seconds of the game to secure a victory over the Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Jan. 23, 2017.

12 rebounds.

Crawford had made only 7 of 41 shots in his last four games.

The Clippers improved to 3-7 while playing without injured stars Blake Griffin and Chris Paul. Griffin, who had arthroscopic right knee surgery on Dec. 20, warmed up before the game and likely will return Tuesday night at Philadelphia.

Wizards 109, Hornets 99

In Charlotte, North Carolina, John Wall had 24 points and seven assists while Markieff Morris added 23 points and eight rebounds as Washington earned its fifth win in six games.

Otto Porter Jr. was active all night with 14 points and 13 rebounds for his seventh double-double of the season. Bradley Beal made four 3-pointers on his way to 18 points, helping the Wizards shoot 54 percent from the field while the Hornets struggled to stop the pick and roll.

Washington also held Charlotte to 39 percent shooting.

Kemba Walker had 21 points on 7-of-24 shooting and Marco Belinelli added 18 for Charlotte, which had won three in a row.

Knicks 109, Pacers 103

In Indianapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 26 points and broke a tie with a baseline jumper with 23.4 seconds left, sending the Knicks to a rare

victory at Indiana.

It was the Knicks' first road win in the series since March 17, 2012. Derrick Rose had 20 points and six assists for New York, which had dropped four of five.

Indiana erased a 17-point third-quarter deficit and tied it at 103 on two free throws by Paul George with 42 seconds remaining. Anthony answered, and the Pacers didn't score again.

George scored 31 points and Myles Turner had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who have lost three straight.

Bucks 127, Rockets 114

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 31 points while Jabari Parker had 28 as Milwaukee snapped a five-game losing streak.

Antetokounmpo made 11 of 17 shots and scored nine points in the final 4:16. Houston got no closer than six points in the final three minutes.

James Harden had 26 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds for Houston, which fell to 1-1 on its five-game road trip. Patrick Beverley added 18 points.

Spurs 112, Nets 86

In New York, Patty Mills scored 20 points while LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 as San Antonio rolled while playing without Kawhi Leonard and three other regulars.

Pau Gasol (broken bone, left hand) and Tony Parker (sore left foot) didn't even make the road trip, while Manu Ginobili was scheduled for a night off but couldn't have played anyway because of back spasms. Then Leonard, the Western Conference player of the week, was scratched.

Isaiah Whitehead scored 19 points for the Nets, who got more bad news before the game when they announced Jeremy Lin will be sidelined another three to five weeks after aggravating his strained left hamstring.

Kings 109, Pistons 104

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points and 14 rebounds as the Kings snapped a five-game losing streak.

Ty Lawson added 19 points and helped Sacramento turn the game around with a strong second quarter. Lawson scored nine points in the second, and the Kings outscored the Pistons 37-24 in the period to take a 65-62 lead into halftime.

A 3-pointer by Lawson put Sacramento up 101-90 in the fourth, and the Kings held on from there to stop Detroit's three-game winning streak.

Andre Drummond had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Pistons.

Kerr calls some players' All-Star votes a 'mockery'

MIAMI (AP)—Golden State coach Steve Kerr wishes players had taken their voting

for the NBA All-Star Game more seriously, calling it a "mockery" after nearly 300 players in the league wound

up on at least one ballot.

Players had a say in deciding starters for next month's game in New Orleans, with their selections accounting for 25 percent of someone's total score in the balloting. Fan and media votes were also part of the process of selecting starters, and NBA coaches vote this week for the reserves to be revealed on Thursday.

Kerr was asked why he would use the word "mockery."

"I saw the list," Kerr said. "I saw all the guys who got votes. ... There were 50 guys on there who had no business getting votes. Although a lot of people wrote in their buddies in the presidential vote as well. So maybe that's just their own way of making a statement. I think if you're going to give the players a vote, I think they should take it seriously."

"I am very disappointed in the players," Kerr, who will coach the Western Conference in the game, said before the Warriors lost 105-102 at Miami on Monday night. "They've asked for a vote and a lot of them just made

In past years, starters have

been picked entirely by fan vote. This year, those whose

All-Star hopes now hinge on the coaches' vote include Dwyane Wade, Zaza Pachulia, Joel Embiid, two-time All-Star MVP Russell Westbrook and perennial All-Star pick Carmelo Anthony. Wade, Pachulia and Embiid would have started under the old formula.

Kerr said the change to the way starters are picked this year didn't affect the way he made his votes for reserves. He sent his vote in Sunday.

"Didn't alter anything," said Kerr, whose spot as the West coach was clinched when Houston lost to Milwaukee on Monday.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said he called a staff meeting to get input on the ballot he'll send to the league.

"How is Russell Westbrook not in the starting lineup?"

Spoelstra asked. "I know how it's important to players and especially guys that are giving their heart and soul and emotions into the game and should be rewarded for it. I do have to admit, in some years past, I would just give it to my assistants. Not anymore."

Spoelstra said he told Heat center Hassan Whiteside, another All-Star reserve hopeful, that to be picked as an All-Star backup wouldn't be a consolation prize but rather would be a sign of respect.

"Players, they're not all voting. Fans, you have no idea where that's coming from," Spoelstra said. "But coaches ... they're paid to figure out who helps teams win and I think that's the ultimate compliment if you get voted in by coaches. So I'm taking that responsibility a lot more seriously than I have in the past."

Patriots' defense ignored critics on the way to Super Bowl



**F O X B O R -
O U G H, Mass.** (AP)—There's a mantra that players quickly come to learn when they play for Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots.

It's placed in different spots in the locker room, it's on the walls around the team facility, and the coach himself repeats it often: "Do your job."

Perhaps no other unit for the Patriots has embodied Belichick's go-to phrase more than his defense this season.

And if New England hopes to capture its fifth Super Bowl, no other group will be relied on more as the Patriots face an Atlanta Falcons offense that has scored a combined 80 points through two playoff games.

Defensive back Duron Harmon, who had a huge touchdown-saving tackle in the second quarter of the Patriots' 36-17 AFC championship game win over Pittsburgh on Sunday, said that even in their tightknit world they couldn't help but notice the criticism that surrounded the defense earlier this season.

"Oh yeah, definitely. We try not to focus too much on the media, but we hear it, it's everywhere," Harmon said. "We heard that we weren't tested all year."

It was back in training camp that the Patriots first began to be dogged by questions about what their identity would be on defense following the trade of edge rusher Chandler Jones.

A slow start in struggling to create a pass rush without him during the first month of the regular season also did little to quiet critics.

That was followed by the surprise midseason trade of linebacker Jamie Collins, and a three-week stretch in which the defense failed to force a single turnover.

That turned early compliments for new additions such as Chris Long and Eric Rowe into pressure on the shoulders of New England veteran linebacker Dont'a Hightower and a secondary led by Devin McCourty and Logan Ryan to increase their production.

They responded by having the stingiest scoring defense in the NFL over the final three weeks of the regular season, and entered the playoffs giving up a league-low 15.6 points per game.

They've maintained that status in the playoffs, allowing just 16.5 points per game.

Turnovers have also been up since that midseason lull.

Including the two playoff games, the Patriots' defense has come up with 19 turnovers in the past eight games. The defense has had multiple turn-



AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts after throwing a touchdown pass to Julian Edelman during the second half of the AFC championship NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

"It comes through a lot of hard work, a lot of meetings, a lot of communication on how we're going to do things and then a lot of on the field execution at actually doing them at a good competitive level so that we can gain confidence in each other as a unit as to how that's going to happen in a live game situation."

Cornerback Malcolm Butler said the results down the stretch haven't been a surprise to a now-unified group of veterans and newcomers that have come to appreciate the methodical approach that Belichick preaches daily.

"Just keep working, man. That's all you can do is work no matter what anybody says," he said. "Just keep working and keep your head down and things will happen like it happened this season."

He also said success wouldn't affect their approach to the next two weeks.

"The job's not done," Butler said. "I'm going to enjoy it and we've got to get back to work soon."

Falcons get back to work after earning trip to Super Bowl

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga.

(AP)—Dan Quinn certainly knows who the Atlanta Falcons are playing in the Super Bowl.

No wonder.

It seems as if Bill Belichick, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are there every year.

One day after reaching the big game for only the second time in franchise history, Quinn and his players were back at their training complex in Atlanta's northern suburbs, rehashing the blowout of Green Bay before turning their attention to the team they'll play next.

"Going to the Super Bowl is not a reward," Quinn said Monday. "Playing really well and winning, that's the reward. It's going to be a hell of a battle."

Immediately after the Patriots routed Pittsburgh for the AFC title, Belichick said he didn't even know the Falcons had won the NFC championship game.

No such ignorance from his coaching counterpart in Atlanta.

"Yes, I know," Quinn said

overs in seven of those games during that stretch. Belichick said the formula

has simply been his players buying into the program they've always tried to foster.

But he said getting to face playoff-bound teams late in the season was a boost as well.

"It doesn't happen overnight. There's no switch that you can flip," Belichick said.

Denver Broncos in John Elway's final game.

Atlanta endured plenty of distractions in the buildup to that game, from coach Dan Reeves reliving an ugly breakup with the Broncos to a dispute over the how the players departed their chartered jet in Miami to, most notably, team leader Eugene Robinson being arrested the night before the game for attempting to solicit a prostitute.

After all that, it wasn't surprising that Denver cruised to a 34-19 victory.

Quinn expects no such problems from his team, before or after it gets to Houston.

"With some teams, I might be worried. Not this one," he said. "This team is so tight. The accountability they have for each other is so strong, this brotherhood is so strong. They care about one another. They realize they're playing for something bigger than themselves. This team, this group, I totally trust them."

A bigger concern might be the huge gap in Super Bowl experience.

Outside of 36-year-old defensive end Dwight Freeney,

who played in a pair of title games with the Indianapolis Colts, the Falcons really have no idea what they'll face over the next two weeks.

That's where Quinn might be of help.

He was Seattle's defensive coordinator during back-to-back Super Bowl appearances—one a rout of the Broncos, the other a heartbreaking loss to the Patriots.

"I've gone when things have gone well, I've been a part of it when it hasn't," Quinn said. "I want to outline some of the keys to playing well in the game and managing some of the things on the outside. That's a part of the process where I can help, and I'll share that with the guys."

Quinn's advice will certainly come in handy for players such as Taylor Gabriel. The speedy receiver was cut by the lowly Cleveland Browns during the preseason and now he's got a shot at a championship, a turn of events that still seems a bit surreal.

"It hasn't hit me yet that I'm going to the Super Bowl," he said after the 44-21 victory over the Packers.

Gabriel, who is from the Dallas suburbs, expects to get a plethora of ticket requests from family and friends who can easily make the drive to Houston.

That's one of those things that every player must deal with to some degree during a Super Bowl week, and some manage it better than others.

Another possible distraction for the Falcons is the impending departure of offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, who is expected to be named coach of the San Francisco 49ers as soon as the season is over.

The Falcons will have a normal week of practice through Friday, so Shanahan will likely have a second meeting with 49ers officials on Saturday to hammer out any lingering details about his first head coaching job, according to Quinn.

"I'm really proud of him," Quinn said. "A lot of speculation and things are going on in the outside world, but he was able to stay dialed in. He should be commended for being on point and going for it. He totally nailed that."

Venus to meet Vandeweghe in Australian semifinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Venus Williams has reached her 21st Grand Slam semifinal, her first at the Australian Open in 14 years.

CoCo Vandeweghe advanced to her first major semifinal, anywhere, beating Grand Slam winners in back-to-back rounds. The one sure outcome when they meet this week will be an American in the final at Melbourne Park.

The 36-year-old Williams beat No. 24-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Tuesday, becoming the oldest player to reach the Australian Open women's semifinals in the Open era.

She'll be meeting a confident Vandeweghe, who dictated play against French Open champion Garbine Muguruza in a 6-4, 6-0 quarterfinal win.

The No. 35-ranked Vandeweghe upset top-ranked Angelique Kerber, who won the Australian and U.S. titles last year, in the fourth round. She followed it up with another commanding win, the 10th in her career against a Top 10 player.

Vandeweghe saved the only break point she faced in the first set with an ace, and only conceded 10 points in the 28-minute second set. Of her 31 winners, 14 were from her powerful forehand side.

"Once I got rolling in the



United States' Venus Williams celebrates after defeating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova during their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017.

second, it was like a freight train," she said, "You couldn't stop it."

In the first men's quarterfinal, U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-3. Wawrinka will play the winner of the Tuesday night match between Roger Federer and Mischa Zverev.

It was Wawrinka's fourth win in a row over Tsonga and the first meeting between the pair at a Grand Slam other than the



French Open, where they had played three times, with Wawrinka holding a 2-1 edge.

Wawrinka said he began to move better after the first set.

"I started to be more aggressive from the first shot, I think that made the difference," Wawrinka said, adding that he'll have dinner in front of a television set watching the Federer-Zverev match.

Williams has advanced through the tournament with-

out dropping a set, and isn't ready to stop in the semifinals in the latest installment of her career revival.

"It's wonderful to start the year out with this appearance," said Williams, who hadn't reached the semifinals in Australia since 2003, the year she lost the final to her sister, Serena. "I want to go further. I'm not happy just with this. But I'm so happy to be in the position to like go further."

Williams didn't reach the quarterfinals at any of the

BEST

From Page 28

cit down or even regain the lead had it not been for its free throw woes in that stretch. Eugene Manglona went only 2-for-8 from the stripe with his last split cutting the lead to 3, 1:20 remaining on the clock.

Manglona then made it a 1-point game, 71-72, when Odicla muffed two charities off CUC's unsportsmanlike foul and the former stole the inbound pass intended for Rueda for an uncontested layup.

Still behind and with the clock now down to 24.5 seconds, CUC opted to give up a foul and the gamble backfired as Baul calmly hit the crucial

charities to bring Best Deal/RNV's lead back to 3, 15.3 ticks left in the game. CUC then called its last timeout and went for a quick 2-pointer with Travis Spaeth driving inside and nearly making an and-1 play as the ball rattled off the rim.

Spaeth also faltered on his pair of free throws and CUC bungled another chance to move closer when Manglona's jumper fell short. CUC got another offensive rebound, but John Santos' pass to Jester Kaipat underneath was too strong. Kaipat tried to save the ball from going to the baseline, but his heave too was wide with the ball going out of the sideline as time ex-

pired, giving Best Deal/RNV its first victory.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Michael Cabanas towed Coca-Cola Subway to a 74-39 demolition of Westco.

Cabanas nearly outgunned the entire Westco crew as he exploded for 34 points. He got off to a hot start, scoring 16 points—14 of them in consecutive fashion and 12 were from downtown—to give Coca-Cola/Subway a 22-11 advantage.

Coca-Cola/Subway never relinquished the double-digit lead from thereon, as Westco simply could not contain Cabanas. Coca-Cola/Subway improved its record to 2-1 to share the Pool B lead with Westco.

Xu in the closing seconds of the third knotted the count, but the Torchbearers failed to overtake MCS in the end as the Knights had enough firepower left in the fourth canto to win the match.

Agape absorbed its first loss this season. It prevailed in its debut last week after crushing Marianas Baptist Academy, 48-27. Chenxuan also top-scored for Agape in its first victory, tallying 15 points, while Mac Guintu finished in double figures, too with his 12. Guintu was under the weather yesterday and missed their game against MCS.

Five Mt. Carmel players scored at least 4 points apiece in their 10-point victory over Agape with James San Nicolas and Diaz leading the way with 9 markers each. Kapileo logged 8, while Toves and Raphael Galang recorded 6 and 4, respectively.

Yang Chenxuan paced Agape with his 16 points. He brought the Torchbearers back in the game in the third quarter when he registered 7 points. The third canto started with Agape behind by 5, 17-22, and Chenxuan drilled 7 straight markers against the Knights' 4 to move his team within two. An undergoal stab from Silas

First Game

Coca-Cola/Subway 74 — Cabanas 34, Francisco 11, Felix 9, Ogasawara 8, Armia 7, Fejera 5.

Westco 39 — Rejano 14, Tolentino 13, Cortez 6, Landicho 4, Illahi 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-11, 38-19, 52-28, 74-39.

Second Game

Best Deal/RNV 74 — R. Rueda 22, Mortos 18, Baul 16, Odicla 11, Tanacras 4, Corong 3.

CUC 71 — Manglona 26, Santos 15, Kaipat 12, Simada 7, Pestillos 6, Poquiz 3, Lieto 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 38-32, 54-51, 74-71.

MCS

From Page 28

while an incomplete 3-point play from Kapileo gave MCS its biggest lead, 40-30, with less than a minute left in the match.

Neither team managed to score after that as the Knights worked the clock, while Agape misfired and made a couple of turnovers against Mt. Carmel's good defense.

The victory was the Knights' second in as many games as they also won their season debut last Thursday following a 34-15 rout of Grace Christian Academy at the Eagles' court on Navy Hill.

Grand Slams from 2011 — when she was diagnosed with the Sjogren's syndrome, which saps energy and causes joint pain — and the 2015 Aus-

tralian Open. She lost in the first round here last year, but returned to reach the semifinals at Wimbledon and finished the year ranked 17th.

CAROL

From Page 28

into the third round after eking out a 7-5, 6-4 victory against Australia's Sophia Fry, a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 winner over New Zealand's Ema Miyauri in the first round. Also in Round 1, Aoki ousted Lee's doubles partner Kamoe, 6-3, 6-1.

The winner in the Lee-Aoki tiff will face the victor in the battle between New Zealand's Nina Paripovich and Japan's Misaki Kobayashi for one of the two semis berths at the lower half of the draw.

Meanwhile, in the doubles event, the seventh-seeded pair of Lee and Kamoe eased past the unranked duo of Kate Bolton and Craig of New Zealand, 6-0, 6-2, to gain a Round 3 slot.

In the third round, the Pacific Oceania tandem will collide against another Kiwi pair in Ivy Mclean and Sarah Weekley, who pulled off an upset in the second round versus No. 11 seed Natasa Ilic and Helena

Spiridis of Australia. The Aussies won the opening set, 3-6, while the Kiwis prevailed in the last two, 6-1, 10-6, to steal the win and earn the right to challenge Lee and Kamoe in the next round.

A victory against Weekley and Mclean will set up Kamoe and Lee's quarterfinal showdown versus No. 1 seeds Risa Fukutoki and Mana Kawamura of Japan or No. 15 Anderson and Amelia Lawson of New Zealand. The Japanese booted out sisters Tiana and Yasmin Glazabrook of Australia, 6-4, 6-0, while Anderson and Lawson topped South Korea's Heejin Jan and Chinese-Yaipai's Skia Kung, 6-1, 6-4, to make it to the third round.

The 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships is Lee's second tournament in New Zealand this month. She first competed in the Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF in Christchurch and barged into the quarterfinals and semis of the singles and doubles events, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
28	16	.636	—
26	17	.605	1½
20	26	.435	9
15	27	.357	12
9	35	.205	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	9	.795	—
Houston	34	14	.708	3
Memphis	26	20	.565	10
New Orleans	18	27	.400	17½
Dallas	15	29	.341	20

Northwest Division

Atlanta	26	19	.578	—
Washington	24	20	.545	1½
Charlotte	23	22	.511	3
Orlando	18	28	.391	8½
Miami	15	30	.333	11

Pacific Division

Golden State	38	7	.844	—
L.A. Clippers	30	16	.652	8½
Sacramento	17	27	.386	20½
Phoenix	15	29	.341	22½
L.A. Lakers	16	32	.333	23½

NFL STANDINGS

Scoring

G	FG	FT	PTS	Avg
45	451	392	1386	30.8
39	355	302	1131	29.0
41	427	298	1173	28.6
48	399	428	1373	28.6
43	401	324	1202	28.0
44	442	328	1228	27.9
41	352	268	1075	26.2
45	416	252	1173	26.1
37	39	198	1025	25.6
41	345	269	1044	25.5
43	324	359	1060	24.7
45	366	200	1105	24.6
38	343	151	931	24.5
43	371	244	1018	23.7
46	403	156	1080	23.5
42	355	212	967	23.0
44	360	166	1011	23.0
45	360	202</		

Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring Season Winners

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



The Oleai Re-Darts members receive their individual runner-up trophies in last Sunday's awards banquet for the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring Season at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.



Two members of The Warehouse Na'Gupu pose with their trophies in the Flame Tree B Division.



The Naked Fish Ridin'Darryt players with their runner-up awards in the A Division.



Members of the Oleai Nakayoshi show their Master's Division runner-up trophies.



The 9-Eleven Strikers players show their Fanihi Division runner-up awards.



The Warehouse Xecutioners members pose for a photo after getting their trophies in the Tuesday B class.



6JMS Mafia III players pose with their regular season C Division championship trophies.



Naked Fish Ridin'Darryt players get the championship trophies in the Flame Tree B Division.

**Waiters for
the win: Heat
stun Warriors,
105-102**

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Sports



**Patriots' defense
ignored critics on
the way to
Super Bowl**

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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MCS beats Agape in early rematch

Carol still undefeated in second tourney in NZ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ITF International Tennis Federation CNMI junior player Carol Lee swept her first three games in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington, New Zealand.

Lee won a pair of matches in the singles event to advance to the third round, while she and partner Mulan Kamoe of Fiji are also in Round 3 of the doubles competition after prevailing in their first game.

In her first singles assignment, the second-ranked Lee proved to be too much for wild card entry and New Zealand's Jourdan Craig as former blanked her foe last Monday, 6-0, 6-0. The CNMI also needed only two sets to eliminate another Kiwi in Tamara Anderson, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday. The unranked Anderson moved into the second round following her 6-1, 6-4 triumph over Australia's Anastasia Berezov.

With Lee's 2-0 record in the singles, she will be pitted against No. 14 seed Otoha Aoki of Japan and they will duel for one of the eight quarterfinals berth in the main draw today. Aoki marched

See CAROL on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Carol Lee is still in contention in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships in Wellington, New Zealand.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School won its early rematch against Agape Christian School, 40-30, yesterday in the middle school division game in the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League.



The Knights, who pulled off a 40-38 victory against the Torchbearers in last season's finale, handed Agape another defeat at Agape's home turf in Middle Road after a strong fourth quarter.

The fourth period started with MCS and Agape in a standoff, 26-all. The Knights broke the deadlock and gained cushion when they outgunned the Torchbearers, 10-2, in the first four minutes of the six-minute final canto. Mark Kapileo and Marcus Toves had 4 points each in that spurt, while Jeremiah Diaz made the other bucket for MCS. Agape was held to 2 points off one free throw apiece from Tychicus Xu and Yang Chenxuan.

Agape then finally got its first field goal in the quarter from Xu's follow-up shot, however Toves countered with his third field goal in that period,

See MCS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Mark Kapileo, center, drives against two Agape Christian School defenders during the fourth quarter of their middle school game in the COPSSA caging yesterday at the ACS court in Middle Road.

Best Deal/RNV snaps skid, tops CUC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Best Deal/RNV Construction finally made it into the win column of the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League after outclassing Commonwealth Utilities Corp., 74-71, last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Best Deal/RNV ended its three-game losing skid and handed CUC its first defeat in three matches.

CUC seemed poised to keep its perfect record when it took a 67-60 advantage midway in the fourth quarter before collapsing in the home-stretch after missing a lot of free



throws, while Best Deal/RNV closed out strong to gain its first win.

An 8-0 run capped by Ronald Rueda's pair of charities put Best Deal/RNV on top, 68-67, with 2:35 left on the clock. Ariel Baul and Ryan Odicata chipped in 3 points each in that spurt and Best Deal/RNV went on to stretch its lead to 3, 72-69, after two more free throws from Andy Mortos and Rueda's fastbreak play, with under two minutes left on the clock.

CUC could have trimmed the defi-

See BEST on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Best Deal/RNV Construction's Ryan Odicata, third right, is fouled by CUC's Robert Lieto during the fourth quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.